Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4412.)

F.O.
424

PART LVII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

110

January 1881.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Lord Lyons ..	1208	Dec. 31, 1880	Montenegrin boundary. Note to French Government respecting delay of French Commissioner in joining his colleagues ..	1
2	Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha	(A.)	16,	Calling attention to position of Mussulmans in Bulgaria, and to non-execution of Berlin Treaty by Bulgarian Government ..	1
3	„ „ ..	(B.)	16,	Hardship to Mussulmans of being enrolled in Bulgarian army	2
4	„ „ ..	(C)	16,	Porte wish to have amount of Bulgarian tribute fixed	3
5	Captain Sale ..	61 Telegraphic	Jan. 2, 1881	Movements of Montenegrin Boundary Commissioners	3
6	„ „ ..	39	Dec. 27, 1880	Montenegrin frontier. Reasons for desiring definition of between the lake and the sea. Misunderstanding on part of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting ..	3
7	„ „ ..	40	27,	Reasons why it is premature to demarcate the frontier north of the lake	4
8	To Embassies (except Constantinople)	..	Jan. 4, 1881	Thanks of Sir B. Seymour for assistance of foreign officers during naval demonstration..	4
9	To Captain Sale (also to Mr. Kirby Green)	1	4,	Thanks of Sir B. Seymour for the assistance afforded him whilst in command of allied squadron in the Adriatic	4
10	Consul-General Blunt.	164	Dec. 24, 1880	Bulgarian families expelled from Kiuprulu are to be sent back to their homes	5
11	„ „ ..	166	29,	Turkish military movements	5
12	Sir A. Paget ..	590	31,	Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to Italian Government two circulars respecting Unionist movement in Bulgaria, and desires to obtain exemption from conscription for Mussulmans in Bulgaria	5
13	Mr. Kirby Green ..	..	Jan. 1, 1881	Transmitting copies of correspondence respecting facilities to inhabitants of Dulcigno wishing to withdraw	6
14	Lord Lyons ..	10	4,	Montenegrin frontier. French Commissioner left Trieste on the 1st January. (See No. 1)	7
15	Captain Sale ..	62 Telegraphic	5,	Montenegrin frontier. Turkish Commissioner has no instructions, and all progress stopped in consequence	7
16	Acting Consul-General Summa	2	Dec. 24, 1880	Montenegrin frontier. Touzi occupied by Dervish Pasha with three battalions	8
17	Mr. St. John ..	702	29,	Reporting steps taken to ascertain truth of rumours of a general rising in Albania ..	9
17a	To Sir H. Elliot ..	7	Jan. 6, 1881	Demolition of Bulgarian fortresses. Opinion of Austrian Government as to joint representations respecting	9a
18	To M. Challemel-Lacour	..	6,	Gratification of Her Majesty's Government at hearing of excellent relations between English and French Admirals of the allied squadron off Montenegrin coast	9
19	To Admiralty ..	..	6,	Naval demonstration. French Government wish their acknowledgments conveyed to Admiral Seymour for his conduct during ..	9
20	To Mr. St. John ..	9 Telegraphic	7,	Arrest of servant of British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta. To keep the matter in his own hands	10
21	„ „ ..	14	7,	Montenegrin frontier. To urge Porte to send instructions to their Commissioner to commence work	10
22	„ „ ..	15	7,	Extension of military service to Mussulmans in Bulgaria. Conversation with Musurus Pasha	10

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
23	To Mr. St. John ..	16	Jan. 7, 1881	Bulgarian tribute. Conversation with Musurus Pasha respecting	11
24	" " ..	17	7,	Demolition of Bulgarian fortresses. Conversation with Musurus Pasha respecting ..	11
25	To Mr. Stephen ..	1	7,	Approves language held by him to Aleko Pasha respecting number of Russian officers in the militia	11
26	Mr. St. John ..	6 Telegraphic	8,	Constantinople-Fao telegraph line. Concession for was applied for by Mr. Pender and others	11
27	" " ..	7 Telegraphic	8,	Arrest of servant of British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta. Reports steps taken ..	12
28	" " ..	10 Telegraphic	8,	Kurdish incursion. Representations of Persian Ambassador supported by Russian Ambassador	12
29	Sir A. Paget ..	3 Telegraphic	8,	Montenegrin frontier. (See No. 21.) Count Corti will support representations of Her Majesty's Embassy	12
30	To Consul-General Blunt	2	8,	Approves his representations to Turkish authorities. (See No. 10)	12
31	To Captain Sale ..	3	8,	Montenegrin boundary north-east of Lake of Scutari. To say he has no instructions if question is raised	12
32	Captain Sale ..	Telegraphic	8,	Reports his arrival at Scutari and interview with Dervish Pasha. Turkish Commissioner has no instructions, and will not join his colleagues	13
33	M. Ressman ..	..	8,	Turkish Circular as to fixing amount of Bulgarian tribute. What view do Her Majesty's Government take?	13
34	To Mr. St. John ..	14 Telegraphic	10,	Does Consul at Aleppo consider sufficient reparation has been made? (See No. 27) ..	13
35	" " ..	18 Confidential	10,	Claim to Dulcigno raised by Albanian League. Approves action taken by him (see No. 17) to ascertain privately views and intentions of Albanians	13
36	Mr. Gould	123	Dec. 26, 1880	Servian Agrarian Law. Reporting steps taken to get it more equitably administered ..	13
37	" "	124	27,	Reports active reorganization of Slav Committees	14
38	" "	125 Secret and Confidential	28,	Intimate relations between Her Majesty's Government and that of Italy. Annoyance of Baron Haymerle at	14
39	Mr. Lascelles ..	185	28,	Representations made by Porte respecting proceedings of Bulgaro-Macedonian League ..	14
40	Sir H. Elliot ..	2	Jan. 4, 1881	Regrets having misunderstood proposal of Her Majesty's Government with regard to separation of united fleets. Has explained matter to Baron Haymerle	15
41	Lord Odo Russell ..	8 Secret	7,	Porte's proposals to Dr. Strousberg for railways in Asia Minor unfavourably viewed by German capitalists	16
42	Mr. St. John ..	12 Telegraphic	11,	Minister of War dismissed and Osman Pasha appointed	16
43	To Mr. St. John ..	17 Telegraphic	11,	Montenegrin frontier. Continue to urge Porte to send instructions for demarcation of to its Commissioner	16
44	" " ..	17	11,	Extends No. 43	16
45	Sir A. Paget ..	13	8,	Dulcigno frontier. Instructions sent to Count Corti similar to those sent to Mr. St. John. (See No. 43) . ..	16
46	Mr. St. John ..	13 Telegraphic	11,	Instructions of Turkish Commissioner as desired. (See No. 43)	17
47	Captain Sale ..	64 Telegraphic	11,	Instructions of Turkish Commissioner as to taking part in Montenegrin Boundary Commission	17
48	" " ..	65 Telegraphic	12,	Austrian Commissioner authorized to support Turkish proposition. (See No. 47) ..	17
49	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	12,	Montenegrin Boundary. Approving modified line proposed by Turkish Commissioner ..	17
50	" " ..	..	12,	Extends No. 49 ..	18
51	Mr. St. John ..	15 Telegraphic	13,	Proceedings of Albanian League at Uscup. Forwards telegram from Consul at Salonica respecting ..	18
52	Mr. Stephen ..	377	Dec. 24, 1880	Eastern Roumelian militia. Reduction in strength of companies of ..	18

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
53	Mr. Stephen ..	385	Dec. 27, 1880	Copy of speech of Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia on closing of Session of Provincial Assembly	18
54	Mr. St. John ..	1 Confidential	Jan. 3, 1881	Alleged plot against the Sultan. Steps taken respecting	20
55	" " ..	6	4,	Inclosing copy of despatch from Vice-Consul at Rustchuk reporting on new town of Alexandropol and railway communication in Bulgaria	20
56	" " ..	9	4,	Disturbances in Samos. Prisoners have all been liberated without trial ..	22
57	" " ..	14	5,	Financial difficulties of the Porte owing to their military expenditure	22
58	Captain Sale ..	66 Telegraphic	13,	Can French and Italian Governments be moved to support Turkish proposition respecting Montenegrin boundary	23
59	Mr. St. John ..	18 Telegraphic	14,	The appointment of Osman Pasha has not the political significance at first supposed ..	23
60	To Lord Lyons (also to Sir A. Paget)	20 Telegraphic	14,	Montenegrin frontier. To make suggestion proposed by Captain Sale. (See No. 58) ..	23
61	" " ..	41	14,	Extends No. 60	23
62	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	1	8,	Inclosing copy of despatch to Mr. Goschen relating to Turkish military matters ..	23
63	Lord Lyons ..	36	14,	Montenegrin frontier. Has informed French Government in sense of No. 49	24
64	Sir H. Elliot ..	4 Telegraphic	14,	Montenegrin frontier. No direct instructions sent to Austro-Hungarian Commissioner respecting modified line proposed by Turks ..	24
65	Sir A. Paget ..	7 Telegraphic	14,	Montenegrin frontier. Movements of Italian and French Commissioners	25
66	Mr. St. John ..	20 Telegraphic	15,	Hears that 35,000 Albanians are at Prisrend with the object of retaking Dulcigno .	25
67	Lord Odo Russell ..	18	13,	Montenegrin frontier. Germany will agree to Turkish modified proposal if other Powers do	25
68	" ..	20 Secret	14,	Austrian suspicions of Eastern policy of Russia. Russian efforts to remove	25
69	Sir H. Elliot ..	13	14,	Inclosing extract from "Fremdenblatt" respecting relations of Austria with Germany and Russia	26
70	Lord Lyons ..	41	15,	Montenegrin frontier. Copies of correspondence with French Government respecting modified line proposed by Turkey ..	27
71	Mr. Kirby Green ..	..	14,	Montenegrin frontier. Inclosing telegram from Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting some changes now proposed by Porte	28
72	" " ..	..	15,	Alleged ill-treatment of some Mussulman inhabitants of Podgoritza. Correspondence respecting	28
73	To Mr. St. John ..	42 Telegraphic	17,	Albanian designs upon Dulcigno. Wants name of his informant. (See No. 66)	30
74	Mr. Kirby Green ..	Memo.	18,	Respecting alleged intentions of North-eastern Albanians to attempt to retake Dulcigno ..	30
75	Captain Sale ..	67 Telegraphic	18,	Montenegrin frontier. Montenegro will not accept line proposed between lake and the sea	31
76	Mr. St. John ..	23 Telegraphic	18,	Name and position of his informant. (See No. 73)	31
77	Mr. Kirby Green ..	..	19,	Inclosing copy of a telegram from Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting Porte's proposal for a modification of the Dulcigno frontier	32
78	Consul Sandwith ..	Telegraphic	18,	Turkish military movements	32
79	To Captain Sale ..	5 Telegraphic	19,	Montenegro. What are Montenegrin objections to proposed line? (See No. 75) ..	33
80	Mr. St. John ..	22	9,	Turkish military preparations	33
81	" " ..	27	11,	Ministerial changes and reasons for the same ..	33
82	" " ..	30	12,	Movement of troops at the Dardanelles. Despatch from Vice-Consul Maling respecting ..	33
83	" " ..	37	12,	Reserves in Vilayet of Aidin. Inclosing despatch from Lieutenant Chermside respecting	34
84	Captain Sale ..	1	7,	Extends No. 15	35
85	" " ..	2	7,	Montenegrin frontier. Baron Haymerle misinformed as to supposed abandonment of Leskovac by Turks	36

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
86	Captain Sale ..	3	Jan. 7, 1881	Result of his inquiries respecting state of Mussulman population of Dulcigno under Montenegrin rule	36
87	„ „ ..	4	8,	Reporting his arrival at Scutari, and conversation with Dervish Pasha respecting new frontier	37
88	Sir A. Paget ..	24	15,	Montenegrin frontier. Italy accepts modified line proposed by Turkish Commissioner ..	37
89	Mr. St. John ..	26 Telegraphic	20,	Attitude of Porte towards Albanian League at Uscup. Telegram from Consul-General Blunt	38
90	„ „ ..	28 Telegraphic	20,	Serious state of affairs in Cossova Vilayet. Telegram from Consul-General Blunt ..	38
91	To Mr. St. John ..	31 Confidential	20,	Alleged plot against the Sultan. Approves his action as reported in No. 54	38
92	To Mr. St. John (also to Mr. White, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell)	34 Confidential	20,	Alleged defensive Treaties between Turkey and Roumania, and between Germany, Austria, and Turkey. To ascertain as to truth respecting	38
93	Consul-General Blunt.	1	11,	Turkish military movements and preparations..	39
94	„ „ ..	2	11,	Notice published in "Salonica Gazette" offering rewards for capture of brigands	39
95	„ „ ..	3	11,	Threats of Albanian League at Uscup to destroy the railway if Turkish troops are carried by it	40
96	„ „ ..	4 Confidential	12,	Copy of telegram sent by station-master at Uscup respecting threats of Albanian League. (See No. 95)..	40
97	Captain Sale ..	5	11,	Extends No. 47	40
98	Mr. St. John ..	30 Telegraphic	21,	English gendarmerie officers' contracts renewed	41
99	Lord Dufferin ..	12 Telegraphic	21,	Message sent by Montenegro to Her Majesty's Government through Russian respecting frontier line recently suggested	41
100	Consul Sandwith ..	Telegraphic	21,	Departure of Turkish iron-clad for Constantinople	41
101	To Mr. St. John ..	51 Telegraphic	21,	He may instruct Mr. Blunt to telegraph Albanian news home direct	42
102	To Lord Dufferin ..	46 Telegraphic	22,	Montenegrin frontier. Her Majesty's Government are waiting to learn Montenegrin objections. (See No. 99)	42
103	To Captain Sale ..	8 Telegraphic	22,	Montenegrin frontier. Importance attached by Montenegro to line of thalweg of Boyana. To report respecting	42
104	To Lord Dufferin ..	28	22,	Extends No. 102	42
105	To Captain Sale ..	5	22,	Extends No. 103	42
106	To Sir A. Paget ..	28	22,	Question of fixing amount of tribute to be paid by Bulgaria to Porte. Italian Chargé d'Affaires informed of views of Her Majesty's Government respecting	43
107	Mr. St. John ..	31 Telegraphic	23,	Reports great anxiety at Porte with regard to Albanian movement	43
108	„ „ ..	32 Telegraphic	23,	Impression at Porte that Austria and Italy are fomenting agitation in North Albania ..	43
109	Sir H. Elliot ..	8 Telegraphic	23,	Montenegrin frontier. Baron Haymerle thinks question of thalweg of Boyana should be left to Commission	43
110	Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha	..	13,	Ill-treatment of Mussulman emigrants by Montenegrin Government. For intervention of Her Majesty's Government respecting ..	44
111	To Lord Lyons (also to Sir A. Paget)	39 Telegraphic	24,		44
112	To Lord Lyons ..	65	24,	Montenegrin frontier. Approves terms of his note to French Government. (See No. 70.)	44
113	Sir H. Elliot ..	19	14,	Extends No. 64 ..	44
114	Captain Sale ..	68 Telegraphic	23,	Montenegrin frontier. Telegraph line interrupted. Little probability of Commissioners agreeing upon a line	45
115	„ „ ..	69 Telegraphic	24,	Montenegrin frontier. Montenegrin objections to modified line proposed by Turkey ..	45
116	„ „ ..	70 Telegraphic	25,	Montenegrin frontier. Is not pledged to question of boundary on Boyana. Arrival of French and Italian Commissioners ..	45

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
117	Mr. St. John ..	34 Telegraphic	Jan. 25, 1881	British gendarmerie officers' contracts renewed for twelve months	46
118	„ „ ..	35 Telegraphic	25,		46
119	Lord Odo Russell ..	8 Telegraphic	25,	To await further instructions at Scutari. (See No. 114)	46
120	To Captain Sale ..	10 Telegraphic	25,	Montenegrin frontier. Question as to thalweg of Boyana. Do not understand his explanations. (See No. 115)	46
121	„ „ ..	11 Telegraphic	25,		47
122	To Earl of Dufferin (also to Lord Lyons)	53 Telegraphic	25,		47
123	To Sir H. Elliot ..	52 Telegraphic	25,		47
124	To Sir A. Paget ..	59 Telegraphic	25,	Unsettled state of affairs in Sandjak of Novi-Bazar beyond the Austrian lines	47
125	Consul Freeman ..	1	18,	Montenegrin frontier. Further explanations respecting Montenegrin claim to thalweg of Boyana line	48
126	Captain Sale ..	71 Telegraphic	25,	Ask Austrian Government what they think should be done respecting disputed point as to right bank of Boyana	48
127	To Sir H. Elliot ..	58 Telegraphic	26,	Montenegrin frontier. Turkish Commissioner is impeding settlement. Her Majesty's Government are consulting Austria .. .	48
128	To Mr. St. John ..	61 Telegraphic	26,	Extends No. 127	48
129	To Sir H. Elliot ..	25	26,	Extends No. 128	49
130	To Mr. St. John ..	42	26,	State of Crete. Success of Cretan institutions. Regularity and order maintained in the island	49
131	Consul Sandwith ..	1	15,	Emigration of Mussulmans from Podgoritza ..	51
132	Acting Consul-General Summa	1	15,	Reporting conversation with Osman Pasha, late Governor-General of Kossova ..	51
133	Consul-General Blunt.	Telegraphic	26,	Five Russian officers in Eastern Roumelian militia ordered to resign and proceed to Russia	52
134	Mr. Stephen ..	1 Confidential	13,	Change in composition of Cabinet and public Departments of Turkey	52
135	Mr. St. John ..	42	16,	Treatment of Bulgarians in Macedonia. Inclosing article from "Bulgarin" newspaper respecting	52
136	„ „ ..	45	17,	Mussulman claims against Christians arising out of the late war. Despatch from Consul Calvert respecting	53
137	„ „ ..	52	18,	State of district of Bourgas. Improved relations between Turks and Bulgarians. Inclosing despatch from Consul Brophy respecting	54
138	„ „ ..	55	18,	Surrender of disaffected Turkish villages in district of Dospat to Eastern Roumelia. Inclosing copy of despatch from Mr. Stephen respecting	5
139	„ „ ..	57	19,	Objects of Albanian League. Reports from Uscup respecting. League said to be encouraged by Turkish Government ..	59
140	Consul-General Blunt.	Telegraphic	27,	Count Hatzfeldt unable to leave Berlin. Suggests that Mr. Goschen should pass through Berlin on his way to Constantinople and see Prince Bismarck	59
141	Lord Odo Russell ..	11 Telegraphic	28,	Austrian Commissioner's instructions respecting giving thalweg of the Boyana to Montenegro	59
142	Sir H. Elliot ..	12 Telegraphic	28,	Alleged confiscation by Montenegro of property of Mussulmans emigrated from ceded districts	59
143	To Mr. St. John ..	50	28,	Inclosing copy of No. 143. To report respecting	60
144	To Mr. Kirby Green..	3	28,	Acceptance by Montenegro of line proposed by Turks from Lake Scutari to the Boyana ..	60
145	Captain Sale ..	12 Telegraphic	26,	Montenegrin frontier. Line between Lake Scutari and Boyana voted by Commission unanimously	60
146	„ „ ..	13 Telegraphic	28,		

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
147	Mr. Lascelles ..	1 Telegraphic	Jan. 7, 1881	Varna-Rustchuk Railway question. Bulgarian Government intend to issue a Circular respecting	60
148	To Sir H. Elliot ..	34	29,	Information received by Austro-Hungarian Government respecting abandonment of Lescovac by Dervish Pasha apparently incorrect	61
149	Sir H. Elliot ..	15 Telegraphic	30,	Montenegrin frontier. Question of the thalweg of the Boyana. Instructions to Austrian Consul respecting	61
150	Captain Sale ..	14 Telegraphic	30,	Montenegrins already in possession of right bank of Boyana. Further explanations respecting question of thalweg	61
151	Mr. Lascelles ..	1	28,	Attempt of Bulgarian Government to pass a law compelling all Deputies to be able to read and write Bulgarian	62
152	Mr. Gould.. ..	3	14,	Servian Agrarian Law. Steps taken by Bulgarian Government to redress grievances of Mussulman proprietors..	62
153	Captain Sale ..	6	17,	Details of *status quo* line north of Lake of Scutari	62
154	„ „ ..	7	17,	Montenegrin frontier. Conversation with Montenegrin Commissioner. He is instructed to adhere to "Dulcigno arrangement" line	63
155	Captain Sale to Lord Tenterden	..	18,	Montenegrin frontier. Inclosing copy of a semi-official note to Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs recommending acceptance of Turkish proposal	63
156	Consul-General Blunt.	5	19,	Turkish military movements	64
157	„ „ ..	6	19,	Albanian League. Little fresh news respecting. Porte has decided to adopt a more resolute attitude towards	65
158	„ „ ..	7	19,	Bulgarians deported from Kiuprulu. Reports arrangements for repatriation of carried out..	65
159	Mr. St. John ..	59	21,	English gendarmerie officers' contracts renewed	65
160	Lord Dufferin ..	24 Confidential	21,	Extends No. 99	66
161	Sir H. Elliot ..	35	23,	Extends No. 109	66
162	„ „ ..	45	28,	Extends No. 142	66
163	Consul St. John ..	..	24,	Slavonic nationality of North-eastern Albanians. Observations on Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice's remarks on views put forward by him respecting	67
164	Lord Odo Russell ..	46	28,	Extends No. 141	69
165	„ „ ..	51 Confidential	28,	Alleged defensive Treaties between Turkey and Roumania, and Germany, Austria, and Turkey. Observations respecting ..	69
166	To Captain Sale ..	14 Telegraphic	31,	Montenegrin frontier. He should act with his Austrian colleague. (See No. 149) ..	69

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LVII.

No. 1.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 1, 1881.)

(No. 1208.)

Paris, December 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day addressed a note to the French Government in the terms of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 675 and 676 of this afternoon respecting the delay of the French Commissioner for the Montenegrin frontier in joining his colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 2.

(A.)

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January* 1, 1881.)

E

Constantinople, le 16 *Décembre*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LES informations qui nous arrivent de la Bulgarie présentent toujours la situation sous un jour des plus défavorables. Malgré l'intérêt tout d'humanité témoigné par les Cabinets, les Musulmans continuent à se trouver dans des conditions qui n'offrent aucune garantie de sécurité et de justice. Dans l'ordre politique, il n'y a pas non plus d'amélioration à constater; au contraire, les efforts tendant à changer l'état de choses établi dans la Péninsule Balkanique par le Traité de Berlin s'accentuent chaque jour davantage: l'arrivée en Bulgarie de sous-officiers et d'armes étrangers, suivie d'une recrudescence d'agitation ayant pour objectif la Roumélie Orientale et la Macédoine, constitue un symptôme grave. Si l'on y ajoute encore le fait que les prescriptions du Traité de Berlin concernant la démolition des forteresses anciennes n'ont pas été exécutées, et que le Gouvernement Bulgare entretient sur le Danube un bateau à vapeur armé contrairement aux dispositions de l'Article LI du même Traité, on se fera une idée plus ou moins adéquate de tout ce que la situation de la Principauté présente de menaçant.

Les Puissances, soucieuses de prévenir toute tentative de nature à amener des complications nouvelles dans l'Europe Orientale, ont fait faire des représentations auprès du Gouvernement Princier, mais il est à regretter que ces démarches n'aient pas abouti; à Sophia on s'est plu à maintenir les équivoques, tantôt en subordonnant aux convenances locales les stipulations formelles du Traité de Berlin touchant la démolition des forteresses, démolition qu'on veut rendre graduelle pour la prolonger indéfiniment, tantôt en se retranchant derrière les conclusions d'un Rapport du General Ehrnrooth.

Quant au contenu de cette pièce, je me dispense d'y insister; il me suffit de constater que l'Article LII du Traité y est discuté à l'exclusion de l'Article XI, qui domine pourtant la question, puisqu'il stipule que toutes les anciennes forteresses seront rasés aux frais de la Principauté dans le délai d'un an ou plus tôt si faire se peut, et que le Gouvernement Local devra prendre immédiatement des mesures pour les détruire sons pouvour en faire construire de nouvelles.

La Sublime Porte croirait manquer à son devoir si elle n'appelait pas l'attention des Puissances co-signataires sur les dangers de l'état de choses que je viens de décrire. Le moment est venu, croyons-nous, de faire entendre sérieusement à Sophia la voix de la raison et de la justice. Les Gouvernements sincèrement désireux de voir maintenir la paix et la tranquillité en Orient ne peuvent que partager notre opinion.

Je prie votre Excellence de s'inspirer des considérations qui précèdent dans ses entretiens avec les Ministres de Sa Majesté la Reine, et de tâcher d'amener le Cabinet de Londres à rappeler le Gouvernement Bulgare au sentiment du devoir.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 3.

(B.)

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January 1, 1881.)

E
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 16 Décembre*, 1880.

UN récent Décret du Gouvernement Bulgare vient d'étendre le service militaire aux Musulmans habitant la Principauté. Cette mesure, qui se heurte déjà dans son application à des difficultés sérieuses, pourrait amener des conséquences qu'il importe de prévenir.

L'enrôlement des Musulmans n'offre rien d'insolite en soi-même; habitués de longue date au service militaire, ils ne refuseront pas d'une manière absolue de s'y soumettre; seulement éprouvés comme ils l'ont été par les derniers événements et privés des droits que leur assure l'Article V du Traité de Berlin, ils se trouvent dans des conditions exceptionnelles et anormales qui les autorisent à demander à être exemptés pendant quelque temps encore du recrutement, afin qu'ils puissent, dans l'intervalle, remonter leurs villages, reprendre leurs travaux, et régulariser enfin leur position. Il y a là donc une question d'opportunité devant laquelle tombe l'objection tirée du mérite d'une mesure qu'on dit être destinée à établir le principe de l'égalité entre Musulmans et Chrétiens dans la nouvelle Principauté.

Il importerait de ne pas laisser les Puissances se méprendre sur l'esprit dans lequel ces observations leur sont présentées. Nous n'entendons point discuter la valeur de la conscription, bien que nous soyons loin de la considérer comme l'unique base de l'égalité qui devrait trouver plutôt son expression dans le traitement général de tous les habitants de la Bulgarie. Le Gouvernement Impérial ne désire [? que] l'ajournement de cette mesure en ce qui regarde les Musulmans, et cela pour qu'ils puissent se relever des malheurs qui les ont abattus.

Le temps peut seul faire disparaître les obstacles qui s'opposent à l'application du Décret dont il s'agit. La population à laquelle la Bulgarie veut étendre le service militaire se trouve, nous le répétons, dans une situation exceptionnelle, créée soit par l'émigration soit par d'autres causes.

Quant au Gouvernement Princier, il pourra mettre à profit le délai qui se passera encore avant que son projet ne se réalise pour entreprendre dès à présent de former un cadre d'officiers Musulmans. C'est là une garantie dont l'importance se mesure à la nécessité d'inculquer au préalable aux recrues l'idée qu'elles seront admises, à l'instar de leurs concitoyens Chrétiens, à tous les grades et à tous les honneurs militaires.

Je prie votre Excellence de faire part des considérations qui précèdent au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et de l'engager à faire parvenir à Sophia des conseils propres à amener le Gouvernement Bulgare à ajourner le recrutement des Musulmans de la Principauté.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 4.

(C.)

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January 1, 1881.)

E
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 16 Decembre*, 1880.

AUX termes de l'Article IX du Traité de Berlin, le montant du tribut annuel que la Bulgarie paiera à la Cour Suzeraine doit être déterminé par un accord entre les Puissances Signataires.

Je vous prie de convier le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité à procéder, de concert avec la Sublime Porte et les autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, à la fixation du montant annuel du Tribut de la Bulgarie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 5.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 2, 11 P.M.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, January 2, 1881, 9·15 P.M.*

ALL the Commissioners here are leaving for Dulcigno to-morrow morning.

French Commissioner has left Trieste.

Nothing heard of new Italian Commissioner.

No. 6.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 4, 1881.)

(No. 59. Political.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, December 27, 1880.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's télegram No. 53 of the 24th instant, I would venture to remark that there would seem to be some misunderstanding on the part of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the reasons for desiring that a definition of the frontier between the lake and the sea, agreed to by both the interested parties, should be supplied to each Commissioner. At present neither I nor any of the other Commissioners have any such definition, and it seems rather irregular and unusual to demarcate a frontier without any valid document on which to base a decision.

Baron Haymerle appears to think that it is merely information that we want, and that it will suffice for Consul-General Lippich to tell us where the new frontier should go. But this is far from being the case. No one either would or could accept M. Lippich's hearsay definition of the frontier as an official basis for demarcation, and, as for technical information, Consul-General Lippich is not in a position to give us any, even if we required it.

The definition unofficially communicated to the Porte on the 5th August last is so faulty that I should hesitate to make use of it; but I have a copy of the definition communicated to His Highness the Prince of Montenegro by Mr. Green, and inclosed in his despatch No. 146 of the 13th June last to your Lordship.

This memorandum is marked "Confidential," and has never been officially communicated to me, so that I could not make use of it without your Lordship's approval; but as it has been accepted by the Prince, and as it avoids the errors contained in the memorandum handed in to the Porte on the 5th August last, I have requested by telegraph (No. 59 of the 26th December) your Lordship's permission to make use of it, and, if necessary, to quote it in the Commission.

I allude only to that portion which defines the frontier between the lake and the sea. My Russian colleague tells me that he would be ready to accept any definition of the new line with which I might be officially provided, but that he could not take part in the demarcation unless some one of the Commissioners were so provided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 7.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 4, 1881.)

E

(No. 40. Political.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, December 27, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed that the Prince of Montenegro will urge that the Boundary Commission should demarcate the frontier north of the lake as far as Dinosi, directly they have completed the line between the sea and the lake.

There are no sufficient reasons physically why this should not be done, as the ground is low, and lies at the foot of the mountains.

But unless there is a clear definition agreed to by both Montenegro and the Porte, of the line to be demarcated, or unless both the interested parties bind themselves to accept the decision of the majority of the Commission, an attempt for the second time to mark out this line will be a great deal worse than useless.

As long as both the interested parties reserve to themselves the right to withdraw from the Commission whenever an adverse decision is given, it is almost hopeless to expect that we can succeed, as all our experience has shown that neither the Montenegrin nor Turkish Commissioners will yield anything in deference to the opinion of the majority of the Commission.

To fail a second time in marking out this line would place us in a very false position, and would make the proceedings of the Commission ridiculous in the eyes of the Albanians and Montenegrins alike.

I therefore venture to express to your Lordship the opinion that it would be premature to commence to demarcate this line until we have a clear definition to go upon, or (in case it should be left to the judgment of the Commission) the principle of the final decision by the majority of votes is accepted by both the interested parties.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 8.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January 4, 1881.*

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Admiral Sir B. Seymour,† which has been communicated to me by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, testifying to the cordial assistance received by him from the commanders of the foreign squadrons which took part in the naval demonstration in the Adriatic, and I have to request that you will take an opportunity of informing the Government to which you are accredited of the Admiral's wish that his thanks may be conveyed to the officers with whom he was associated for the friendly manner in which they performed the duties entrusted to them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.‡

(No. 1.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, January 4, 1881.*

THE Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have requested me to convey to you the expression of Admiral Sir B. Seymour's thanks for the assistance rendered to him by you and Lieutenant Caillard during the time that he was in command of the allied squadron in the Adriatic.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 3); Lord Odo Russell (No. 3); Lord Lyons (No. 9); Sir A. Paget (No. 1).

† See Part LVI, Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

‡ Identic to Mr. Kirby Green, with the omission of the words "and Lieutenant Caillard."

No. 10.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5, 1881.)

(No. 164. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December 24, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 159 of the 17th instant, I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by the Greek Archbishop that the Bulgarian families recently expelled from the town and district of Kiuprulu will be sent back to their homes, only any adult males among them who are mistrusted by the local authorities will not be allowed to return for the present.

The Greek families expelled from Caraferia will also go back to their homes.

The above arrangements, which are considered very satisfactory by the Greek Archbishop, have been made by the Administrative Council of the vilayet at the suggestion of Ridvan Bey, the Procureur Impérial, who, it appears, has taken a very active interest in the matter.

I have telegraphed the substance of the above Report to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 11.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5, 1881.)

(No. 166. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, December 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that 1,530 recruits arrived here from Constantinople between the 21st and 27th instant.

750 of these recruits were landed on the 21st by a French merchant steamer; 300 on the 24th, by the "Talia," Turkish despatch boat; and 480 on the 27th, by the "Djanik," Turkish merchant steamer.

The "Talia" left this on the 27th for Volo and Prevesa. She has on board a large quantity of ammunition, besides 110,000 okes of biscuit for the troops in Thessaly and Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 12.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5, 1881.)

(No. 590.)

My Lord, *Rome, December 31, 1880.*

I CALLED yesterday at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and, M. Cairoli being absent, I saw Count Maffei, who told me that the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires had just communicated to him two circulars from his Government, one relating to the continued encouragement given by the Bulgarian Government to the Unionist movement with Eastern Roumelia, to the arrival of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers to organize the Bulgarian forces, and to the non-fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the demolition of the fortresses, on which questions the Turkish Government requested the Italian Government to make further representations at Sophia, in support of one which they had recently themselves made to the Bulgarian Government.

The second Circular related to a desire of the Turkish Government to obtain the exemption from conscription for Mussulmans residing in Bulgaria, at all events for a period of ten years.

The Turkish Chargé d'Affaires also spoke to Count Maffei with the view of obtaining the intercession of the Italian Government with that of Servia for a lenient application, as regards Mussulmans, of the law for the abolition of feudal privileges.

Count Maffei said he had informed the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that these questions

would be taken into consideration by the Italian Government, who would probably confer with other Governments upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 13.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5.)

E
My Lord, 9, *St. Leonard's Road, Surbiton, January* 1, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copies of two notes which have been exchanged between the Ottoman Legation at Cettinjé and the Montenegrin Foreign Office, on the subject of the facilities to be accorded to the inhabitants of Dulcigno who may wish to withdraw from that place.

I consider the reply given by Voïvoda Radonich to Khalid Bey most fair; and I am sure the Montenegrin Government is not at all disposed to throw difficulties in the way of Mussulmans who may desire to quit the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Khalid Bey to M. Radonich.

Cettinjé, le 16 *Décembre,* 1880.

SON Excellence Dervich Pacha, Commissaire Extraordinaire et Commandant-en-chef de Scutari, m'écrit qu'il avait envoyé à Dulcigno quelques Notables Scutarins pour faciliter le départ des habitants désireux d'émigrer sur le sol de l'Empire et estimer, en même temps, leurs biens, dans le cas où il y aurait des acheteurs à Scutari. Le Maréchal se plaint, dans sa lettre, que l'autorité de Dulcigno, sous le prétexte que ces primats encouragent l'émigration, empêche tout rapport entre les habitants et eux et les met, par cela même, dans l'impossibilité d'accomplir leur tâche.

Le Traité de Berlin et la Convention de Kounia sont tellement précis et explicites, au sujet des émigrés et de leurs droits, que je ne puis m'empêcher d'éprouver un légitime étonnement en apprenant que les autorités Monténégrines, au lieu de nous venir en aide dans cette circonstance, nous soulèvent des obstacles et cherchent à paralyser une mesure prise, par le Commissaire Impérial, dans le seul but d'accorder des facilités à ceux qui veulent émigrer, mesure ne pouvant certes donner lieu à aucune autre interprétation.

En conséquence de ce qui précède j'ai le ferme espoir que le Gouvernement Princier, appréciant la justice de cet exposé, voudra bien donner sans retard les ordres nécessaires, à qui de droit, de laisser pleine liberté d'action aux Envoyés de son Excellence Dervich Pacha pour l'accomplissement d'une tâche conforme, à la fois, et au Traité de Berlin et à la Convention de Kounia.

(Signé) KHALID BEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

M. Radonich to Khalid Bey.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{3}{16}$ *Décembre,* 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir votre lettre en date d'aujourd'hui par laquelle vous voulez bien m'informer de ce que son Excellence Dervich Pacha aurait chargé quelques Notables Scutarins de se rendre à Dulcigno pour faciliter le départ des habitants désireux d'émigrer et pour estimer leurs biens dans le cas où il y aurait des acheteurs à Scutari.

Permettez-moi de vous dire, M. l'Envoyé, que le Gouvernement Monténégrin a tout lieu d'être surpris de cette manière de procéder qui lui paraît pour le moins incorrecte. Ce n'est effectivement que par votre lettre que nous avons appris la mission dont ces Notables étaient chargés. En arrivant à Dulcigno, ces messieurs ont jugés inutile de se

présenter à nos autorités, n'ont produit aucune pièce justifiant leur caractère, et sont entrés en relation directe avec nos sujets.

Il nous aurait été du reste impossible de traiter cette question avec des gens ayant pris une part aussi active à tout ce qui a précédé la remise de Dulcigno à nos troupes; mais nous sommes tout prêts à donner notre assentiment à ce que les mesures que nécessiterait cette émigration soient arrêtés par nos autorités locales de Dulcigno de commun accord avec l'officier Ottoman, qui s'y trouve actuellement, ou avec tout autre fonctionnaire régulier de la Sublime Porte désigné à cet effet.

En agissant ainsi le Gouvernement Princier ne croit nullement s'éloigner ni du Traité de Berlin, ni surtout de la Convention de Kounia, et dans ces conditions je crois devoir vous en assurer encore une fois, le Gouvernement de mon auguste Maître s'appliquera autant qu'il sera en son pouvoir à faciliter l'émigration éventuelle des Dulcignotes.

Je ne puis non plus passer sous silence le passage de la lettre de votre Excellence faisant entrevoir la possibilité de l'acquisition des biens des émigrés par des Scutarins. Cette éventualité se présentant, le Gouvernement Princier se verrait dans l'obligation de s'y opposer formellement, vu que d'après les lois existantes aucun sujet étranger ne peut devenir propriétaire d'un immeuble dans la Principauté.

Il est inutile d'ajouter que la manière de voir du Gouvernement Princier dans cette question ne saurait en rien être préjudiciable aux intérêts des émigrants auxquels toutes les facilités seront accordées pour rendre ou affermer leurs propriétés.

Tout nous porte à croire, du reste, que le nombre de ces émigrés sera fort restreint.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

No. 14.

E *Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5.)*
(No. 10.)
Paris, January 4, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1208 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have received from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon, and from which it would appear that M. de St. Quentin, the French Commissioner for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, left Trieste on the 1st January, and ought to arrive at Gravosa to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 14.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 3 *Janvier,* 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AU reçu de votre lettre du 31 Décembre je me suis empressé de prendre des renseignements sur l'itinéraire suivi par M. de St. Quentin, à qui j'avais prescrit de se mettre en mesure de rejoindre par la voie la plus rapide ses collègues de la Commission pour la délimitation du Monténégro.

D'après les informations qui viennent de m'être transmises, M. de St. Quentin a quitté Trieste le 1er Janvier, et il doit arriver à Gravosa demain, Mardi.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

No. 15.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Dulcigno, January* 5, 1881.

TURKISH Commissioner for delimitation informs me that he has received no orders or instructions as to recommencing work, and he cannot therefore take part. This stops all progress. Please address to Scutari, where I hope to arrive to-morrow.

No. 16.

Acting Consul-General Summa to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 6, 1881.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Scutari, le 24 Décembre*, 1880.

PAR ma dépêche télégraphique datée du 21 de ce mois, j'ai eu l'honneur de rapporter à votre Seigneurie que Dervich Pacha, à la suite de l'accord avec les Chefs Montagnards des Hottis et Grouda, a fait occuper par trois bataillons de troupes régulières, toutes les positions de Touzi, et je suis fondé à croire que le Commandant Turc a rassuré les Chefs que de ce côté rien ne sera cédé au Monténégro, ne pouvant autrement expliquer le changement des montagnards, qui étaient décidés à s'opposer même par les armes à la réoccupation de leur pays par les troupes Turques, s'ils n'avaient par de garantie que l'intégrité territoriale leur serait conservée.

Je dois aussi soumettre à la haute appréciation de votre Seigneurie que la tranquillité qui s'est rétablie dans cette province donnait lieu à croire à la prochaine cessation de l'état de siège ; mais le Gouverneur civil, Osman Pacha, par sa note datée du 20 courant, écrit à tous les Consuls d'ici, qu'à la suite de la Proclamation de l'état de siège dans le Vilayet de Scutari, tout sujet Ottoman ou étranger, voulant entrer ou sortir, ou bien voyager dans l'intérieur du vilayet, doit être muni du teskéré ou passeport. Les sujets étrangers des Puissances amies de la Turquie voulant se rendre dans le Vilayet de Scutari, seront également tenus à faire viser leur passeport ou teskéré par les Ambassades et Consuls respectifs de la Sublime Porte, autrement ils seront passibles de la peine prescrite par la loi.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Seigneurie, je crois aussi de mon devoir de vous transmettre ci-joint copie de la note précitée.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) FRA. SUMMA.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Osman Pasha to Acting Consul-General Summa.

M. le Gérant, *Scutari, le 20 Décembre*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'à la suite de la Proclamation de l'état de siège dans le Vilayet de Scutari, tout sujet Ottoman voulant entrer ou sortir, ou bien voyager dans l'intérieur du vilayet, doit être muni du teskéré, et les sujets étrangers de leur passeport. Les sujets Ottomans et les sujets étrangers établis dans le vilayet qui voudront voyager dans l'intérieur de la province, seront tenus à faire viser leur teskéré ou passeport par le Bureau de la Correspondance Etrangère du vilayet.

Les sujets étrangers des Puissances amies de la Turquie voulant se rendre dans le Vilayet de Scutari seront également tenus à faire viser leur passeport par les Ambassades et Consuls respectifs de la Sublime Porte. Les étrangers arrivant par terre présenteront, dès leur arrivée, leur passeport ou teskéré à la première des autorités sur la frontière, et ceux arrivant par mer à celles du port où ils débarqueront.

En outre, les sujets Ottomans et étrangers qui ne seront pas munis du teskéré ou passeport, ou bien tout en étant munis, se permettront de voyager dans l'intérieur du vilayet, ou bien y pénétrer sans faire viser les teskérés ou passeports par le Bureau de la Correspondance Etrangère du Vilayet, seront passibles de la peine prescrite par la loi.

En vous priant de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance des sujets du Consulat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour qu'ils aient à s'y conformer scrupuleusement, je saisis, &c.

Le Gouverneur,

(Signé) OSMAN.

No. 17*.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 7.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1881.

COUNT KÁROLYI has used to me much the same language as that which Baron Haymerle has used to your Excellency, as I gather from your despatches No. 749 of the 24th November and No. 810 of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the demolition of the Danubian fortresses, and Prince Alexander's suggestion that they should be examined by a Commission of European officers. The impression which his Excellency's language gave me was that the Austro-Hungarian Government did not propose to take any independent step in the matter, but that it was their idea that any representations that might be made should be made jointly by all the Powers.

I promised that I would give the question consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 6, 1881.)

(No. 702.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, December 29, 1880.

THE rumours of a general rising in Albania against the Ottoman rule have been so widespread and so persistent at Constantinople, that I was induced to take some pains to ascertain on what they are based. I am now told that the deputation from Bidou, which arrived here some time since to petition the Sultan against the cession of Dulcigno, was never received by His Majesty, but that Abdul Bey, a noted North Albanian Chief, had succeeded in obtaining an audience. Although his reception was, to all appearances, cordial, when he represented the desire of the Albanians to see their country united under one Governor-General instead of under four, as at present, he left His Majesty's presence with the conviction that the demand would never be conceded. Abdul Bey continued to reside at Constantinople until a few days ago, when, on discovering that he was closely watched by emissaries from the Palace, he suddenly absconded. The conclusion drawn is, that he is now on his way to Albania, where he will call upon his countrymen to rise.

It is said that the Government is dispatching a large quantity of ammunition to Salonica, to be conveyed by railway from thence to Uskub, and that the League is taking measures, by undermining the line, to blow up the train as it passes.

I am told that, from Northern Albania, two emissaries have been dispatched by Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, to the Prince of Montenegro, with a message that, as Dulcigno belongs to the Albanians, and not to the Sultan, the Prince must surrender that district to its rightful owners, or prepare for an invasion of his Principality.

Some of those who composed the Albanian deputation above alluded to have, I know not with what object, signified their desire for an interview with me, which, under the circumstances, I have decided to decline.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to M. Challemel-Lacour.

Foreign Office, January 6, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 24th ultimo, referring to the testimony borne by Rear-Admiral Lafont to the excellent relations which existed between himself and Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour on the occasion of the recent naval demonstration, and to whose personal qualities Admiral Lafont has been good enough to attribute the cordial understanding which has subsisted throughout the fleet.

It is scarcely necessary that I should assure your Excellency of the gratification with which I have received the communication which you have been so good as to make to me; and I shall have additional pleasure in carrying out the wishes of your Excellency's Government by requesting that their acknowledgments also may be conveyed to Vice-Admiral Seymour through the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

To Her Majesty's Government it has been a source of constant satisfaction to receive so many proofs of the harmony which has not ceased to exist amongst the Commanders, the officers, and crews of the allied squadron during the period of their stay in the neighbourhood of the Montenegrin coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, January 6, 1881.

My Lords,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordships' information, a copy of a letter which I have received from the French Ambassador at this Court, recording the terms in which Vice-Admiral Lafont has referred to the cordial relations which have

existed between himself and Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour on the occasion of the late naval demonstration, to whose personal qualities the French Admiral further attributes the harmony which has subsisted throughout the fleet."

Your Lordships will perceive from M. Challemel-Lacour's letter that the French Government are desirous that their acknowledgments may also be conveyed to Admiral Seymour, and I have the honour to request that your Lordships will be good enough to give effect to their wishes in such manner as you may think best.

In acknowledging the receipt of the French Ambassador's letter, I have assured his Excellency of the satisfaction which Her Majesty's Government have derived from the harmony which has existed amongst the Commanders, the officers, and crews of the entire fleet during their stay in the neighbourhood of the Montenegrin coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881, 11·45 A.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 681 relative to the arrest of a servant of the British Vice-Consul at Alexandretta, you should keep the treatment of this matter in your own hands, and follow it up energetically.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 14. Extender.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881.

Sir,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 8 of the 6th instant repeating Captain Sale's telegram No. 62 of the previous day's date, I have to request you to join the Representatives of the other Powers at Constantinople in urging the Porte to send instructions to their Representative on the Boundary Commission to commence at once the work of the delineation of the Montenegrin frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

E
(No. 15.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881.

Sir,

MUSURUS PASHA called upon me on the 3rd instant, and spoke to me on the subject of the extension of military service to the Mussulmans resident in Bulgaria in the sense of a note from Assim Pasha,† which he had communicated to me on the 1st instant, and a copy of which is inclosed for your information.

I told his Excellency that the question of the enrolment of Mussulmans in the Bulgarian army had not escaped the attention of Her Majesty's Government, but that the Bulgarian Government seemed to be within their rights as stipulated by the Treaty of Berlin, and to be acting in accordance with the Constitution of the Principality.

It appeared, moreover, I said, that the Mussulmans had the option of emigrating if they objected to serving, and that precautions had been taken to prevent any offence to the religious feelings of those who elected to join the army. I did not, therefore, see that there was any ground for remonstrance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

---

* See Part LVI, No. 267.

† No. 3.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

E
(No. 16.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me on the 3rd instant about the Bulgarian tribute, and stated that he had been instructed to invite Her Majesty's Government to proceed, in concert with the other Powers, to fix the annual amount of it, in accordance with the IXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I told his Excellency that, as the stipulated year was over, I should be ready, as soon as I was officially informed (which I was not at present) that the delimitation of the boundary of Bulgaria had been accepted by the Porte, to join with the other Powers in considering the amount of the tribute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

E
(No. 17.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881.

Sir,

MUSURUS PASHA spoke to me on the 3rd instant respecting the neglect of the Bulgarian Government to carry into effect the demolition of the fortresses prescribed by the XIth and LIInd Articles of the Treaty of Berlin. He referred to a despatch from Assim Pasha on the subject, which he had communicated to me two days previously.

I told his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were in communication with other Powers in regard to the demolition of the fortresses in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Mr. Stephen.

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, January 7, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 872 of the 15th ultimo, reporting the attempt made by Prince Tzeretelew to induce the Governor-General to retain a larger number of Russian officers in the militia than is permitted by the Organic Statute, and I approve the language which you held to Aleko Pasha in support of his desire to adhere to the provisions of that instrument.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, January 8, 1881.

YOUR telegram No. 7.

From private inquiries at Telegraphic Department, I am informed that Mr. Pender and others did apply for concession for telegraph line between Constantinople and Fao, but Turkish Government refused to listen to proposals. Turkish Government wish rather to renew, either with or without modification, Convention entered into between Great Britain and Turkey on the 20th October, 1868.

I am told that Turkish Government regret the little use made of line by Her Majesty's Government, which they say is maintained at great cost solely for communication with India.

---

† No. 3.

No. 27.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 8, 1 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 8, 1881, 11 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 9.

It turns out that servant of Vice-Consul at Alexandretta was guardian of his master's country house, and was liable to conscription.

Consul at Aleppo reports that Kaïmakam has been removed by Vali, who begs that the matter may be dropped in consequence.

No. 28.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 8, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 8, 1881, 8·10 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegram of yesterday.

Russian Ambassador told me to-day that he had on several occasions supported, and would continue to support, Persian Ambassador in latter's representations concerning Kurdish incursion. Persian Ambassador seems surprised that I should not yet have received instructions to repeat support already given by Mr. Goschen, his Government having led him to expect it before now.

No. 29.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 8, 8·40 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January* 8, 1881, 7 P.M.

ITALIAN Government had not heard of Turkish Commissioner in Montenegro having struck work; but instructions will be sent to Count Corti to support representations of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople in urging that orders be sent to him to commence operations at once.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1881.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 159 of the 17th ultimo, giving further information relative to the deputation of Bulgarian families from Kiuprulu.

I entirely approve the representations which you made to the Turkish authorities on behalf of these people, and I have been glad to learn by your despatch No. 164 of the 24th ultimo that they have been allowed, with few exceptions, to return to their homes.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

E
(No. 3.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1881.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 40 of the 27th ultimo, relative to the demarcation of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier to the north-east of the Lake of Scutari, I have to instruct you to inform the Prince of Montenegro, in case the question is raised by His Highness, that you have received no instructions from Her Majesty's Government to take part in the settlement of the boundary in that direction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 32.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 9.)

Scutari, January 8, 1881.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE to report my arrival at Scutari. I have seen Dervish Pasha. He is evidently quite opposed to any delineation unless the Commission entertains a proposition of his for giving back right bank of Boyana to Turkey.

The Turkish Commissioner has no instructions, and no definition of new line, and will not join us.

No. 33.

M. Ressman to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 10.)

Londres, le 8 Janvier, 1881.

M. le Comte,

PAR une note verbale en date du 24 Décembre dernier, le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie à Rome, après avoir rappelé l'attention du Gouvernement Royal sur les dispositions de l'Article IX du Traité de Berlin, relatives au tribut dû par la Bulgarie à la Cour Suzeraine, a exprimé le désir que le Gouvernement Royal d'Italie prît des accords avec la Sublime Porte et avec les autres Puissances Signataires du dit Traité à l'effet de fixer le montant annuel du tribut.

Une communication analogue ayant été faite en même temps aux autres Puissances, le Gouvernement du Roi me charge de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire connaître l'accueil que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine y a fait, et s'il est disposé à entrer avec les autres Gouvernements en pourparlers à ce sujet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) RESSMAN.

No. 34.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1881, 6·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 7, does Consul at Aleppo consider that sufficient reparation has been made?

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 18. Confidential. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 10, 1881.

I HAVE read with interest your despatch No. 702 of the 29th ultimo respecting the claims to Dulcigno raised by the Albanian League, and the refusal of the Sultan to receive a deputation on the subject. I approve your having declined to grant an interview to some of the members of this deputation, but I have requested you by telegraph to obtain, privately and without compromising yourself, as much information as possible respecting the views and intentions of the Albanians in regard to Turkey and Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 36.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11, 1881.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 26, 1880.

SERMED EFFENDI, the Turkish Envoy here, informed me some time ago that the Great Powers had agreed to support the Porte's protest against the Servian Agrarian

Law as being opposed to the spirit as well as the text of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. However, the only foreign Representative who has up the present time received any instructions on the subject is the French Minister, and he has, as I understand, merely been directed to urge the Servian Government to cause the law to be more equitably administered than has been the case so far, but not to demand its abrogation.

Your Lordship will see from my previous correspondence that I have repeatedly made similar representations to the Servian Government, for there is, under the circumstances, far more reason to take exception to the manner in which this law has been applied than to the law itself, and I have accordingly complained on several occasions of the arbitrary proceedings of the Agrarian Commissions.

I am happy to say that the present Administration show a very commendable desire to put a stop to the abuses which have been committed, and that Sermed Effendi himself admits the fact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 37.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11, 1881.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 27, 1880.

I AM informed on good authority that the Slav Committees with which this Principality was honeycombed previously to the outbreak of hostilities with Turkey are being actively reorganized with the assistance of the Orthodox clergy, in obedience to the orders of the Central Committee at Moscow, and that Prince Tzeretelew, the present Russian Representative at Philippopoli, is shortly expected to pay a visit to this country in order to direct the movement, a position for which he is eminently qualified by his antecedents when formerly employed here for a similar purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 38.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11, 1881.)

(No. 125. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 28, 1880.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires here has confided to me, in an unguarded moment, that Baron Haymerle recently addressed to General Robilland, the Italian Ambassador at Vienna, very vehement reproaches ("de très-violentes récriminations") on account of what his Excellency considers the too intimate relations existing between Her Majesty's Government and that of Italy.

The above information, which may be considered thoroughly reliable, owing to the official position and personal character of my informant, is so important in connection with the attitude of Austria-Hungary and Germany in the present phase of the Eastern question, that I have not hesitated to communicate it to your Lordship, although it may already have reached you from other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 39.

Mr. Luscelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11, 1881.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 28, 1880.

NIHAD PASHA has informed me that, in consequence of instructions that he has received from the Porte, he has made a representation to the Bulgarian Government with regard to the proceedings of the Bulgaro-Macedonian League. It appears that in the month of October a letter was published in a Bulgarian newspaper from a person calling himself Secretary to the League, asking for contributions in money and otherwise for

the purpose of liberating the Bulgarians of Macedonia, and calling upon the Bulgarians to form Committees to assist the League, of which he also published a Proclamation.

Nihad Pasha has called the attention of M. Stoitchoff to the revolutionary nature of this publication, and has urged his Excellency to take measures to put a stop to such proceedings.

M. Stoitchoff replied that the newspaper in which the Proclamation was published had no influence or importance, and that the Government had already marked their disapprobation of the proceedings of the League by forbidding their employés to take part in it. M. Stoitchoff also observed that, though he was ready to receive any communication that Nihad Pasha might wish to make officiously, he could not accept his observations as an official representation from the Porte, as the Pasha was not accredited as the official Representative of the Porte, but as the Turkish Commissioner to deal with the vacoufs and State property.

Nihad Pasha has informed me that he intends suggesting to the Porte that it would be advisable not to charge him with any official representation to the Bulgarian Government unless they formally accredit him at the same time as Turkish Representative. As on the present occasion his instructions were not of a very urgent nature, he contented himself with pointing out to M. Stoitchoff that the question was not so much the importance of the newspaper in which the publication had been made as the fact that the Bulgarian Government had not thought fit to take any notice of a publication which was nothing less than an incitement to rebellion against the Suzerain.

In a conversation which I have had with M. Stoitchoff I alluded to the Macedonian League, and his Excellency assured me that no importance was to be attached to it. Attempts had been made to raise money, but they had for the most part failed, and the action of the Government in forbidding their employés to join it had so discredited it that it might be considered as having ceased to exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 4, 1881.

I BEG leave to express to your Lordship my regret that I should apparently have misunderstood the nature of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the separation of the united fleets, and to state that I have lost no time in communicating to Baron Haymerle the explanation given in your despatch No. 810 of the 22nd ultimo.

My despatch No. 771, to which your Lordship alludes, was never intended to convey the impression that I conceived the proposal to comprise, or necessarily to involve the future reassembly of the fleets, for I had only understood the wish of Her Majesty's Government to be not to exclude the possibility of such a reassembly in the event of its being considered advisable.

Baron Haymerle was maintaining, on the one hand, that the naval demonstration came entirely to an end with the cession of Dulcigno; and I understood that the object of Her Majesty's Government, on the other hand, was to prevent the separation of the fleets from having the formal and final character, which, as the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires was informed, they considered calculated to have a bad political effect.

When I had read your Lordship's despatch to Baron Haymerle, he said that, although he did not yet perceive the misapprehension under which he had been, the only observation that he thought it necessary to make upon it had reference to your Lordship's remark, that the decision that the Imperial ships should remain in Austrian waters was, in fact, a compliance with the proposal of Her Majesty's Government; for he must point out that what he had stated was that the vessels would return to their stations, but not that they would "remain" there.

I explained to his Excellency that the fleets being in Austrian waters at the time of their separation, the expression that the Austrian ships would remain in them was the natural one to employ without reference to the length of time that they might continue there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 41.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 8. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 7, 1881.*

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 640 of the 5th ultimo and previous correspondence respecting the proposals of the Porte to Dr. Strousberg for the construction of railways in Asia Minor, I am privately informed that the Doctor has told some of the leading Berlin bankers confidentially of the Porte's offer through Mr. Moring, and has asked them whether they would be inclined to take advantage of it. The bankers he consulted declined, I am told, saying that Turkish railways had not the power to attract German capital, so the enterprise offered no prospect of success in Germany.

German capital will soon be powerfully attracted by the new Russian loan, which the Czar is to announce in his Ukase on the 13th instant, the larger portion of which will probably be subscribed in Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 42.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 11, 1881.*

MINISTER of War dismissed, and Osman Pasha appointed, with position as Paymaster unchanged.

No. 43.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 11, 1881, 4·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 16, continue to urge Porte, in concert with your colleagues, to send instructions to its Commissioner for demarcation of Montenegrin frontier.

No. 44.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 17. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 11, 1881.*

I HAVE requested you to-day by telegraph to continue, in concert with the other foreign Representatives, to urge the Porte to send proper instructions for the demarcation of the Montenegrin frontier to its Commissioner at Scutari, as I learn from Captain Sale that he has arrived without them, and refuses to join with his colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 45.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Rome, January 8, 1881.*

IN reply to an inquiry I made of Count Maffei this afternoon, he informed me the Italian Government had received no information in conformity with that reported in Captain Sale's telegram No. 62 of the 5th instant as to the Turkish Commissioner in Montenegro being without instructions, and consequently unable to proceed with the work; but on my informing him of the instruction sent by your Lordship to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, as recorded in your Lordship's telegram to me No. 9

of the 7th instant, he said instructions should be sent to Count Corti to support the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy with a view to orders being sent to the Turkish Commissioner to commence operations at once.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 46.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 11, 1881.*

YOUR telegram No. 11.

I am authorized by Minister for Foreign Affairs to state to your Lordship that the instructions asked for by me have been sent to the Turkish Boundary Commissioner at Scutari.

No. 47.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 11, 1881.*

THE Turkish Commissioner yesterday received orders from the Porte to take part in the Commission. He is instructed to adopt a modification of the line, namely, that it should follow the right bank of the Boyana, thence by southern shore of Lake Sas and issue of its effluent thence, and up Megured River as far as Point 9 on my map, thence by my line to Lake of Scutari. This is an improvement on the line proposed by the Powers, and gives rather more territory to Montenegro. May I advise Montenegro to accept, and agree myself? The feeling of the Commissioners here is in its favour, and its adoption would probably insure immediate settlement of the matter. The Turkish Commissioner declines cognizance of the line proposed by Powers.

French Commissioner still at Ragusa. Italian Commissioner not heard of.

No. 48.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 12, 1881.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday No. 64, Austrian Commissioner is authorized to support Turkish proposition.

Dervish Pasha announces his departure for Constantinople to-morrow.

French and Italian Commissioners are stopping at Ragusa [?] others [?] are awaiting them here.

No. 49.

*Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.**

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 12, 1881, 7·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my preceding telegram, we approve modified line proposed by Turkish Commissioner if other Powers do.

---

* Also to the Earl of Dufferin (No. 26), Lord Lyons (No. 15), Sir A. Paget (No. 21), Sir H. Elliot (No. 26) and Lord Odo Russell (No. 26).

No. 50.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 14. Extender.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1881.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Captain Sale,† in which is given a description of the modified line proposed by the Turkish Commissioner as the boundary of Montenegro between the Lake of Scutari and the sea; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government, as at present advised, are prepared to approve this line, if it meets with the approbation of the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 51.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 13, 4 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, January 13, 1881, 11·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Blunt, dated Salonica, the 12th January:—

"Telegram of the 10th instant from railway station master at Uscup states that Albanian League there has threatened to destroy the railway and massacre all its officials should any more Turkish troops or war material be carried down the line from Mitrovitza to Uscup."

No. 52.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14, 1881.)

(No. 377.)
My Lord,

Philippopoli, December 24, 1880.

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship to day by telegraph that the Provincial Assembly had reduced the strength of the militia companies from 208 to 160 men. As there are in all 20 companies in the school battalion and the 12 drouzines, a total reduction of 960 men will thereby be made in the force of the East Roumelian Militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 53.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14, 1881.)

(No. 385.)
My Lord,

Philippopolis, December 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy, in French, of the speech delivered by the Governor-General at the close last Saturday, the 25th instant, of the second ordinary Session of the Provincial Assembly.

Of the 32 Draft Laws presented, the following 22 have been passed:—

1. Tax on Pigs.
2. Licence Tax.
3. 10,000*l.* for seed for necessitous agriculturists.
4. Adoption of the Double Decalite System.
5. Subsidies to Communes for Works of Public Utility.
6. Employment of Commissaries of Police.
7. Appointment of Supplementary Judges in Departmental and Cantonal Courts.
8. Licence for carrying Arms.
9. Bill fixing Boundaries of Departments and Cantons.

* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 20), Lord Lyons (No. 34), Sir A. Paget (No. 11), the Earl of Dufferin (No. 15), and Mr. St. John (No. 21).

† See No. 97 (substance telegraphed to Sir H. Elliot and other Embassies on the 12th January).

10. Rural Police.
11. Municipal Police.
12. Programme of Elementary Instruction.
13. Expropriation Bill.
14. Sanitary Service.
15. Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.
16. Law concerning the Press.
17. Elementary Instruction.
18. Metrical System.
19. Title-deeds.
20. Cadastre, or Official Statement of the quantity and value of Real Property in Eastern Roumelia.
21. Income Tax.
22. Budget.

Two Bills were rejected, namely:—

Bills for the improved working of Mineral Springs, and the establishment of a Model Farm.

The remaining eight Bills, including the Vacouf Bill or secularization of ecclesiastical property, were not discussed.

Among the more important laws passed may, perhaps, be counted—

The "Cadastre."
The Expropriation Bill.
The Press Law.
The "Double Decalite" and Metrical System.
Sanitary Service and Title-deeds.
Municipal and Rural Police Bills.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a French translation of the Draft Bill for the Cadastre, according to which, as your Lordship will observe, Commissions are to be formed in each Department under the Presidency of the Prefect, with a view of preparing a temporary estimate of the Revenue of each Commune, based on an average of the harvests for the last ten years (the period from September 1876 to September 1878 being excepted).

These estimates are to be drawn up and forwarded to the Director of Finance within six months from official publication of the Bill.

It is expected that the delimitation of the communes and the surveying and valuation of the land will require so much time that three or four years will probably elapse before the second or third parts of the Bill are put into force.

I have likewise the honour to inclose, in French translation, a précis of the Expropriation Law and a copy of the Law relative to the Press.

I will have the honour to transmit the Budget to your Lordship in a separate despatch.

In conclusion, I would beg to state that I have been much struck by the practical and business-like manner in which the questions before the Assembly have, in most cases, been discussed.

The speeches, though succinct, were fluently delivered, and the proceedings, save on one or two occasions, were conducted in an orderly manner.

Altogether, it may with justice be said that much useful work has been done during the Session, and that the laws which have been passed are calculated to carry into more complete effect the advantages secured to the province by the Organic Statute.

It is, however, to be regretted that copies of motions, projects of laws, &c., are not communicated in Turkish to the Mussulman members, who are usually entirely ignorant of what is being discussed. I have spoken to the Governor-General, who has promised that the Turkish Deputies will, in future, be furnished with translations of the Bills presented. The Greek members, though now able to understand Bulgarian, likewise complain that the documents before the Assembly are not translated into Greek.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

[Inclosures not printed.]

F.O. 424
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

No. 54.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 3, 1881.*

A FEW days since two persons, apparently Mussulmans, presented themselves at this Embassy with a story that they knew of a plot against the Sultan, and could point out a house used as a deposit of arms for revolutionary purposes. I at first paid no heed to this story, but after some days' reflection, and on the return of these men, I deemed it expedient to report the matter to the Palace, so as to avoid the imputation, in the event of the story having been concocted there, that Her Majesty's Embassy had information of a conspiracy against the Sultan's life, and yet took no steps to put His Majesty on his guard.

These men were consequently informed that the Palace should be apprised of what they had related, and they were at the same time warned of the danger they ran if their story should turn out to be unfounded. This risk they seemed perfectly willing to incur, and on being told that they would have to accompany Sir A. Sandison to the Palace they readily consented.

On the 1st instant Sir A. Sandison accordingly proceeded to Yeldiz Kiosk accompanied by these two individuals, and on arriving there he called upon the Chamberlain, after having previously taken precautions against escape of the informants.

On learning the object of the visit the Chamberlain at once informed the Sultan, who thereupon received Sir A. Sandison in the most cordial manner, by grasping both his hands, and thanking him over and over again for the great service rendered him on this occasion. His Majesty, I am told, was profuse, not only in his expressions of gratitude, but also in his professions of a desire to prove it in some signal manner, and by way of a first instalment, as it were, of his good intentions, Sir A. Sandison was desired to inform me that Baker Pasha and the English gendarme officers should at once be re-engaged, His Majesty adding that he would shortly have something to communicate to me of importance.

The Sultan's manner, as described by Sir A. Sandison, impressed me more as that of a man who had experienced a sense of relief at the successful test of a suspected friend than of one, naturally very timid and apprehensive, who had just heard of a plot against his throne, and possibly his life.

It is incredible, in view of the popular belief here, that the defensive operations of the Dardanelles are being conducted, not against the Greeks, but against the English, that two men, belonging to the class of Turks who are imbued with this notion, should, if acting in good faith, have selected Her Majesty's Embassy of all others as the channel through which to inform the Sultan of the existence of a conspiracy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 55.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, reporting on the new town of Alexandropol and on railway communication in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 55.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Luscelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, December 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that in the month of July last, and in consequence of the steps taken at that time by the Bulgarian Government relative to the foundation of a

new town to be called "Alexandropol," I thought it advisable to accompany the Government Engineer on his journey there.

We left Rustchuk on the evening of the 21st July, 1880, by steamer to Nicopolis, arriving there about 10 P.M.

The following morning we were towed up the Danube to the west side of the mouth of the river Osma, where on a gently rising ground are the ruins of a shooting box, built by Midhat Pasha, who also proposed to found a town on that site; and where also the Turks had a small earthwork, which was taken after the passage of the Danube at Nicopolis.

I delayed this Report until now in the hope that I should be able to get a plan of the projected town to accompany it, but in this I have been disappointed.

Alexandropol will be built on the rising ground to the west of the Osma, which winds through a marshy plain, about ½ mile wide before it falls into the Danube, the intention being to cut a canal from the second or third loop made by the Osma straight to the Danube, thus, at the same time, draining the marsh and giving good quay space whereon to erect grain warehouses.

The streets will run in the Russian style, in straight lines, having at the south entrance to the town a large market place, and on the north, overlooking the Danube, a grand place in which will be centred all the public buildings.

There are some water springs on the higher land behind the town to the south and west, but in case these are not sufficient to supply the town, it is intended to carry water by a syphon under the Osma from the high land between it and Nicopolis, that supply being excellent and abundant.

The reason that a town is now projected at Alexandropol is that some 500 Bulgars resident in Roumania and Bessarabia petitioned for it, binding themselves to build each one a house.

If built, Alexandropol will probably be the death-blow to Nicopolis, but as the latter was burnt at the passage of the Danube and is pretty nearly dead already, it will not so much matter. From a commercial point of view the situation is very much better than Nicopolis, which is shut in by mountains in such a manner that it is extremely difficult to get to it by road.

I am assured that the best place for building a railway bridge over the Danube is to be found immediately to the west of Alexandropol, the railway to run from Plevna by the valley of the Vid and send a short branch into Alexandropol.

I pointed this out to M. de Serres, the Engineer of the Austrian "Staatsbahn," when engaged making the surveys for a crossing at Sistovo, and I understand that he accordingly made surveys at Alexandropol.

Supposing a crossing to be made here, the line to Craiova is very simple and avoids an expensive bridge across the Olta. On the other hand, from Plevna, which is a great natural centre and market for all North Western Bulgaria, it is easy to go to Sophia, on the one hand, and Gabrovo, Shipka, Kazanlik, on the other. Indeed, it seems to me that the needs of this country would be best supplied by a line crossing the Balkans at about the Shipka Pass and running from thence to Sophia, opening up the rich valley of roses and saving the construction of a line, which probably would never pay, direct to Sophia viâ Orehnié.

Plevna could thus be joined by a line running viâ Loftcha, Selvi, Gabrovo, Tirnovo, Rasgrad, or Shumla to the present Rustchuk-Varna line. This would, if the gradients were not too stiff, permit of the transport of nearly all the grain of Bulgaria to Varna.

Rustchuk could then be joined to Tirnovo, thus placing Sophia in communication by not too circuitous routes with Varna, Rustchuk, Alexandropol, and Europe.

The importance of a line communicating between Plevna and Varna is enormous, for at present it may be said that all the grain of Western Bulgaria finds its way by expensive carriage to the Danube, and thence by lighters to Galatz, from whence it is shipped to Europe, but the usual difference of freight to England from Galatz and from Varna is 2*s.* per quarter, plus the Danube carriage, and with the additional disadvantage that Galatz is frozen up for three months every year, which Varna never is.

It is needless to point out what a splendid thing this would be for the shareholders of the English Varna Railway Company.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 56.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4, 1881.*

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 637 of the 1st ultimo, inclosing a letter which I addressed to his Excellency on the subject of the late disturbances in the Island of Samos, I have the honour to report that the numerous political prisoners whom the Prince-Governor had so arbitrarily incarcerated without any pretence of a trial were some weeks ago all liberated, except four of the principal Notables of the island, who were still detained for the purpose of undergoing one.

Mr. Consul Mare, in a despatch just received, informs me that the trial of these four individuals had commenced amidst much popular excitement, and it was expected that Judgment would be pronounced on the 30th December last; but, to general surprise, the four prisoners were suddenly liberated by order of the Prince-Governor on the 28th, or two days previous to the expected Judgment.

I had taken every opportunity, since my return from Samos, of acquainting the Porte and the Ambassadors of France and Russia with the dangerous policy pursued by Adossides Pasha. If my efforts have resulted in the liberation of the prisoners without at the same time procuring the recall of the Prince-Governor, I fear my visit to Samos has but little benefitted the Samiotes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 57.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 5, 1881.*

THE Ottoman Government are being hardly pressed to meet the extra expenditure entailed by the military preparations, which are now actively prosecuted. This extra expenditure is calculated roughly to amount to £ T. 200,000 a-month; and as few, if any, of the contractors for war material, clothing, &c., will accept any order unless paid at once in cash, every effort is being made to meet these demands. The Government have sent orders to the provinces to refuse payment of any "havalés" on the provincial Treasuries, with the exception of those "havalés" which have been granted to persons who have contracts with the Ministry of War or Admiralty. Officers have been sent into the provinces to see that these orders are strictly attended to.

Notwithstanding these measures the Government will find considerable difficulty in tiding over the next three months. But little money will be received by the Treasury during this period, and as the credit of the Government is completely lost there seems little probability, as matters stand at present, of their being able to obtain any further loans from the Galata Bankers.

In early spring the sheep tax will be paid in, and it is estimated that this will amount to about 1,250,000*l*. There is also a considerable amount of grain still remaining unsold in the Government stores in the provinces, on which money might possibly be raised.

The pressing question, however, is how to find the requisite funds for the next three months. The bankers here would not be unwilling, I am told, to lend money if some fresh terms were made with them with regard to the six Indirect Contributions; and it is said that a loan of 1,000,000*l*. might be obtained if the Government decided to place the customs revenues under the supervision of the Department of the six Indirect Contributions.

I will endeavour to procure some details respecting the floating debt of the Government, and their general financial prospects, but it is extremely difficult to obtain really satisfactory data.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 58.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 13, 1881.*

SHOULD your Lordship approve Turkish proposition described in my telegram No. 64 of the 11th instant, may the French and Italian Governments be moved to instruct their Commissioners to support it? These two Commissioners cannot arrive here for another week, they know nothing about condition of affairs, and must after arrival apply for instructions; this will involve further protracted delay unless they be immediately instructed how to act as regards the recent Turkish proposition.

No. 59.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 14, 3 P.M.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 14, 1881, 10·30 A.M.*

MY telegram No. 12.

Appointment of Osman Pasha has not the political significance at first supposed. It is due to a Palace intrigue, which I will explain by post. I am told that Sultan and Cabinet are for concession of territory in order to secure peace, but have much to fear from attitude of the Albanians.

No. 60.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 14, 1881, 5·50 P.M.*

MAKE suggestion proposed in Captain Sale's telegram No. 66, with a view of avoiding delay in delimitation of Montenegrin boundary.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.†

(No. 41. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January 14, 1881.*

I HAVE already communicated to your Excellency Captain Sale's telegraphic Report of the orders received by the Turkish Commissioner to take part in the Delimitation Commission, and the details of a modification of the frontier line which he was instructed to adopt, as well as Captain Sale's further telegram suggesting that the French Government should be moved at once to instruct its Commissioner, who had not yet arrived on the spot, to support the new Turkish proposition, should it be approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I have now to instruct your Excellency to make a representation to the French Government in the sense suggested by Captain Sale, with a view to avoiding delay in the delimitation of the Montenegrin boundary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, January 8, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my Confidential despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, relating to military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

---

* Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 13).

† Ibid. (No. 32).

Inclosure in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. St. John.

(Confidential.)
Sir,
Prevesa, January 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Austrian steamer "Leidn," from the Dardanelles, called here the day before yesterday with 325 recruits, 4,000 liras, and 4,176 sacks of flour, salt, and rice. On Sunday last the Turkish steamer "Talia" also called here with clothing for the troops.

I hear that 6,000 men from Scutari are expected to arrive here shortly.

With respect to the Albanian Redifs, they refuse to join the colours, and the Vali of Janina left for Argyrocastro, Berat, and Avlona, in order to induce them to do so, but how far he will succeed in this remains to be seen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 63.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15.)

E
(No. 36.)
My Lord,
Paris, January 14, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram to me, No. 15 of the 12th instant, and to Captain Sale's telegrams to your Lordship Nos. 64 and 65 of the 11th and 12th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a memorandum which I left with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this morning, on the subject of the modified Montenegro frontier-line proposed by the Turkish Commissioner at Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Memorandum of Montenegro Frontier Line proposed by the Turkish Commissioner at Scutari.

TO follow the right bank of the Boyana, thence by southern shore of Lake Sas and east of its affluent thence, and up Megured River as far as Point 9 on Captain Sale's map, thence by Captain Sale's line to Lake of Scutari.

British Government approves this line if other Powers do.

French and Italian Commissioners still (12th January) at Ragusa; English and other Commissioners awaiting them at Scutari.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, January 14, 1881.

WITH reference to Sale's telegram No. 65 of the 12th instant, Baron Haymerle says that he has given the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner no direct instructions upon the modification of the frontier proposed by the Turks, but he has allowed him nearly *carte blanche* to decide as he thinks best upon the questions that arise.

Baron Haymerle considers that the best way of proceeding is as much as possible to leave everything to the Commissioners, and to let the vote of the majority on each question be final.

No. 65.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, January 14, 1881.

I HAVE sent following telegram to Captain Sale:—

"Italian Commissioner telegraphs from Gravosa that he, with French Commissioner, will leave for Scutari on 18th. Italian Government accepts the line proposed by Turkish Commissioner if the other Powers do so."

No. 66.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 15, 9·30 P.M.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.)
(Extract.)
Constantinople, January 15, 1881, 6 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 4, Confidential, of the 6th instant.

Respecting Albania, I hear privately, from a Christian native of that country holding high office under the Turks, that 35,000 Albanians are gathered at Prisrend and its neighbourhood, their object being to retake Dulcigno; and that Ali Pasha of Gusinjé has been asked so command them.

No. 67.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 18. Extender.)
My Lord,
Berlin, January 13, 1881.

I HAVE this day communicated, as directed by your Lordship, the substance of Captain Sale's telegram of the 11th instant, respecting the modified line of frontier on the right bank of the Boyana proposed by the Turkish Commissioner to Count Limburg Stirum, and I have explained that Her Majesty's Government are willing to agree to it if it should meet with the approval of all the Powers.

His Excellency says that, if all the other Powers agree, Germany will not object to the adoption of this new Turkish proposal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 68.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

E
(No. 20. Secret.)
My Lord,
Berlin, January 14, 1881.

IN reply to a query of mine my Russian colleague, M. de Saburoff, told me in confidence that he brought no special news from St. Petersburgh, but that the object of his meeting there with M. d'Oubril, the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, had been to try and find some means of relieving Austria of the constant and unfounded suspicions she is but too prone to give way to in regard to the Eastern policy of Russia, and to endeavour to prove to her that Russia is really sincerely desirous of establishing the most cordial understanding with Austria on the basis of the Berlin Treaty and the European concert. Russia, he said, is in want of peace and most anxious to promote the concert of the Powers in regard to Eastern affairs, a policy she advocated at the time of the Berlin Memorandum, and has ever been desirous of seeing adopted and adhered to by Europe.

An alliance with Russia, he said, Austria would never consent to; all Russia could hope for was to establish practical relations with Austria, unhampered by groundless suspicions, and, in seeking to arrive at this end, he believed that Russia had the cordial approval of Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 69.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 13.) *Vienna, January 14, 1881.*

My Lord,

THE Vienna "Fremdenblatt," although strictly speaking not a Government paper, approaches near enough to that character to render the article, of which I inclose the substance, upon the relations of Austria with Germany and Russia, worthy of your Lordship's perusal.

Its object is to set forth the advantages of the alliance with Germany and the strength of the position that it insures to Austria.

The revival of the Dreikaiserbund must, it says, be regarded as impossible by any one who remembers how its effects had culminated in the peace of San Stefano; and such a declaration, coming from such a quarter, is at least worthy of notice.

The supposed *rapprochement* of Russia towards Germany and Austria is pointed out as not being owing to anything done by these two Powers, but to the fact that of late Russia had shown herself less disposed than at one time to put impediments in the way of the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Extract from the Vienna "Fremdenblatt."

A L'ÉGARD des bruits parlant d'un rapprochement qui se serait opéré ou allait du moins s'opérer entre la Russie et la Monarchie Autrichienne, bruit dont divers journaux se font l'écho, le "Fremdenblatt" fait observer ce qui suit:

"Quiconque se rend bien compte du caractère de l'entente Austro-Allemande et a suivi avec quelque attention le développement des choses en Europe ne saurait avoir un seul instant de doute sur la valeur de ces diverses combinaisons. Néanmoins," continue la feuille Ministérielle, "il ne sera peut-être pas superflu de soumettre ces conjectures à une courte critique, car l'amitié qui unit notre Monarchie à l'Allemagne est tellement devenue la pierre angulaire de toute notre politique extérieure que c'est pour nous un devoir patriotique de démontrer que toute tentative de faire paraître sous un faux jour nos relations avec l'Allemagne serait d'avance absolument vaine et inutile.

"Constatons tout d'abord que pour l'Autriche-Hongrie il n'y absolument aucun motif de se sentir lasse de l'amitié de l'Allemagne, d'en éprouver la moindre gêne, le moindre malaise. Bien au contraire, tous les partis et toutes les nationalités des deux moitiés de l'Empire à la seule exception des Tchèques, continuent à envisager la bonne entente avec l'Allemagne comme la plus sûre garantie d'une politique extérieure répondant aux intérêts de la Monarchie. Dès le début, en effet, l'entente Austro-Allemande a revêtu le caractère d'une alliance de paix établie sur le terrain créé par les Traités Européens, et c'est comme telle qu'elle a déjà fait ses preuves en plus d'une occasion. Quiconque désire la paix pour notre Monarchie doit souhaiter en même temps le maintien de l'amitié qui unit aujourd'hui l'Allemagne et l'Autriche. Loin de devenir incommode pour nous, l'entente avec l'Allemagne nous a déjà valu, au contraire, de grands avantages. Adossés à l'Allemagne nous pouvons atteindre avec une parfaite tranquillité le développement ultérieur des choses dans les pays des Balkans. Toute agitation nerveuse, toute brusque intervention et surtout de perpétuelles menaces ne feraient que nous nuire: il suffit de rappeler au moment décisif que l'Autriche-Hongrie est une grande Puissance, qui se sent liée à l'Orient par des intérêts de la plus grande importance, intérêts que nous avons la force et la volonté de faire valoir. . . . .

"Un autre succès de la politique de paix calme et conséquente que poursuivent les deux alliés, c'est le fait que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg renonce de plus en plus à appuyer les aspirations dirigées contre le Traité de Berlin. La conséquence naturelle en est que les relations entre Berlin et Vienne d'une part et St. Pétersbourg d'autre part sont devenues plus intimes. Si l'on veut appeler cela un 'rapprochement,' nous n'avons rien à y redire; seulement il ne faut pas oublier que dans ce 'rapprochement' ce n'est pas l'Allemagne et l'Autriche-Hongrie, mais bien la Russie qui a dû changer de position. Quant au rétablissement de l'alliance des Trois Empereurs, il ne saurait à ce propos en être question, car la résurrection de cette alliance équivaudrait au renouvellement de la politique qui a abouti à San Stéfano, ce qui ne serait point dans l'intérêt de l'Allemagne et

encore moins dans celui de l'Autriche-Hongrie. L'alliance des Trois Empereurs deviendrait encore plus facilement aujourd'hui qu'en 1876 une alliance de guerre. Or, des aventures belliqueuses ne sont assurément ni dans les intentions ni dans l'intérêt de l'Allemagne et de l'Autriche-Hongrie. Le fait que les tendances pacifiques prévalent aujourd'hui à St. Pétersbourg a du reste une importance toute particulière en ce sens que l'influence de la Russia sur divers peuples des Balkans est encore très-grande; c'est d'elle que dépend toujours la question de savoir si ces États s'épuiseront dans des luttes aventureuses et inutiles ou s'ils consacreront toute leur force à la consolidation et au développement de leurs institutions. Si la Russie adopte franchement les tendances dont l'Allemagne et l'Autriche-Hongrie s'efforcent d'obtenir la réalisation, alors la paix Européenne paraîtra si bien défendue et assurée qu'aucun État n'osera la troubler à la légère; mais pour cela point n'est besoin d'alliances ni d'arrangements particuliers. Il suffit que la Russie se place sans arrière-pensée sur le terrain des Traités Européens et cherche par des paroles et des actes à faciliter l'exécution de ces derniers d'un commun accord avec l'Europe."

No. 70.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

E

(No. 41.) *Paris, January 15, 1881.*

My Lord,

WITH my despatch No. 36 of yesterday, I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a memorandum which I had given to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in the morning, on the subject of the modified Montenegro frontier-line proposed by the Ottoman Commissioner at Scutari.

I inclose herewith a copy of a note which I received in the evening from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and in which he informed me that he had communicated the information contained in my memorandum to the French Commissioner, who was on the point of leaving Ragusa for Scutari.

I have now received telegraphic instructions from your Lordship to suggest that directions should be sent to the French Commissioner to support the proposed line of frontier; and I have the honour to send herewith to your Lordship a copy of a note which I have addressed in consequence to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 14 Janvier, 1881.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS avez bien voulu me faire connaître, dans notre entretien de ce matin, la ligne que propose le Commissaire Ottoman pour la délimitation de la frontière entre le Monténégro et la Turquie, au sud du district de Dulcigno. Vous m'avez annoncé en même temps que le Gouvernement Britannique est disposé à accepter ce tracé si les autres Puissances y adhèrent. Je m'empresse de transmettre des indications au Commissaire Français.

J'ai reçu aujourd'hui, même après avoir vu votre Excellence, un télégramme de M. de Saint Quentin, daté de Raguse. Il me mande que la majorité des Commissaires a choisi Scutari comme lieu de réunion de la Commission Impériale, et par conséquent, il se prépare à partir pour cette ville par le premier bateau.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Lord Lyons to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire.

Paris, January 15, 1881.

M. le Ministre,

I HASTEN to offer to your Excellency my best thanks for the prompt answer you have been so kind as to return to the communication which I had the honour to make to you yesterday morning respecting the Montenegrin frontier.

In the memorandum which I then left with you a line of frontier proposed by the Ottoman Commissioner was described in the following terms:—

"To follow the right bank of the Boyana, thence by the southern shore of Lake Sas and issue of its affluent thence, and up Megured River, given as far as Point 9 on Captain Sale's map, thence by Captain Sale's line to Lake of Scutari."

I had the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were disposed to approve this line, if it was approved by the other Powers.

I have now received instructions to suggest to your Excellency, that, with a view to avoiding delay in the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, it would be desirable that the French Commissioner should be instructed to support the line in question.

The line has been proposed by the Turkish Commissioner in pursuance of orders from the Porte, and Captain Sale, Her Majesty's Commissioner, reports that it is an improvement on the line proposed by the Powers, that it gives rather more territory to Montenegro, and that its adoption would probably insure the immediate settlement of the matter.

Trusting that the suggestion that the French Commissioner may be instructed to support it will commend itself to your Excellency's approval, I beg you to accept, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 71.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

E

My Lord, 9, *St. Leonard's Road, Surbiton, January* 14, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a telegram which has been addressed to me by Voïvoda Radonich concerning some changes which it appears have now been proposed by the Porte with reference to the Albano-Montenegrin frontier, and which Prince Nicholas considers a serious departure from the frontier submitted by me to His Highness under the Dulcigno arrangement.

I can hardly believe that the changes complained of are those which Captain Sale has communicated to your Lordship within the last few days, and which solely affect the frontier in the vicinity of the River Boyana and Lake Sas, for I quite agree with our Boundary Commission that the modifications proposed by the Turks are most advantageous for the Montenegrins.

If difficulties have arisen concerning the frontier near Podgoritza to the east of Lake Scutari, the Boundary Commission, I think, will be found quite sufficient to solve them, as, through the reoccupation of Tousi by the Ottoman troops, there can no longer be any question of local opposition to arrangements arrived at by the Turkish and Montenegrin Governments, together with the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinje, January 12, 1881.

(Télégraphique.)

VOUS verrez du télégramme de Salé les changements notables que proposition apporte au tracé Granville. Son Altesse espère que le Gouvernement de la Reine usera de son influence à Constantinople pour faire revenir la Porte sur cette prétention, qui rendrait les travaux de la Commission impossible.

No. 72.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 17.)

My Lord, 9, *St. Leonards' Road, Surbiton, January* 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copies of some communications which have been exchanged between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities concerning the alleged ill-treatment by the latter of some Mussulman inhabitants of Podgoritza.

I have no doubt whatever that in a short time the friction which has naturally arisen through Mahommedans having come under the jurisdiction of a Christian Government will wear away, for I have every faith in the wish of Prince Nicholas to treat his new subjects with justice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 72.

Dervish Pasha to the Commandant of Podgoritza.

VENGO essere informato da fonte sicura che alcuni abitanti di Podgorizza essendovi rifiutati di conformarsi ad alcune ingiuste proposte fatte loro dall'autorità locale, fu loro ingiunto di sgombrare dal paese entro tre giorni, e non facendolo sarebbero forzatamente espulsi. Diverse famiglie furon perciò obbligate di rendersi scalze col nudo capo e nel modo il più desolante. Nessuna legge credo non ammette l'espulsione se prima le colpe di delitti non sono legalmente constatati e provati; il Trattato di Berlino sopra tutto avendo accordato agli abitanti di Podgorizza e a quelli di altre località date al Montenegro il diritto di essere sudditi Ottomani per tre anni. Io ho dovuto partecipare quest'atto arbitrale ai miei superiori. Egli è per me ciò di grande sorpresa, tanto più in quanto che questa misura non risponde ai miei sforzi consacrati a ristabilire l'ordine, la tranquillità, ed a stabilire le migliori relazioni fra i due Governi. Egli è perciò che io prego VS. di voler prendere in seria considerazione quanto le ho esposto, e di voler dare ordini per la cessazione di questi fatti, ed in conformità alle prescrizioni del Trattato di Berlino. Lei vorrà dar ordini necessari perchè quelli che vorranno emigrare ricevano l'assistenza necessaria sino all'espirazione del termine prefisso dal detto Trattato. Nella speranza che lei vorrà prestare le facilitazioni chieste ho il pregio di offrirle, &c.

Scutari, li 17 *Decembre*, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 72.

The Commandant of Podgoritza to Dervish Pasha.

HO l'onore di partecipare a vostra Eccellenza di aver ricevuto il riverito vostro dispaccio in data 17 Dicembre a. c.

Riferibilmente alla questione mossa nel esso dispaccio, posso osservare che nel Montenegro vigano le leggi sulla scuola, sulla milizia, ed altre istituzioni, egualmente obbligatorie per tutti i sudditi Montenegrini. Disponendosi quindi il vostro Governo all'introduzione delle dette leggi egualmente in tutti paesi a lui soggetti, trovò a Podgorizza presso alcuni individui Maomettani una viva resistenza, colla dichiarazione aperta di voler piutosto abbandonare il paese che sottoporsi ai desideri del Governo. Ma siccome ogni Governo ha la sacra missione di ridurre al rispetto delle leggi necessarie allo sviluppo morale e materiale, e al buon ordine del paese, ogni e qualunque individuo a lui soggetto, così mostro di tenersi fermo nella propria risoluzione. A fronte di ciò alcuni individui di Podgorizza spontaneamente abbandonarono i loro focolari, senza essere da nessuno a ciò ne spinti ne costretti, e molto meno dall'autorità Montenegrina.

Se poi tali individui sparsero delle false deposizioni, accusando le autorità vostre della violenza a loro usata, ciò non offre nessuno prova che tale violenza nel fatto fu adoperata a loro danno.

Le autorità Montenegrine sicuramente trattovo in egual modo tutti i propri sudditi, e posso affermare con piena certezza all'Eccellenza vostra che usano sempre una maggiore indulgenza coi sudditi nuovi in generale che coi sudditi vecchi, e preferibilmente praticano speciali riguardi verso la popolazione Maomettana. Ma vostra Eccellenza saprà di leggieri capacitarsi che dove si tratta dell'omaggio alle leggi e alle istituzioni del paese; nessuna autorità non può permettere che queste vengano accolta ad arbitrio di chicchesia e molto meno da propri soggetti.

Ora mi sia permesso da sua Eccellenza di farle una osservazione che trovo accentuata nel sullodato sua dispaccio 17 corr. sul richiamo al Trattato di Berlino, qualmente al senso dello stesso gli abitanti di Podgorizza ed altre località date al Montenegro hanno il diritto di essere sudditi Ottomani per tre anni. Però mi fu lecito di osservare a vostra Eccellenza che il periodo di tre anni di cui fa cenno il suddetto Trattato non si riferiscano menoma-

mente al diritto impartito ai Musulmani di poter rimanere sudditi Ottomani, ma unicamente esso si estende sulla regolarizzazione dei beni dello Stato e quei dei vacuf, che nel detto termine dovrà elaborare una Comissione mista Turco-Montenegrina. Essendo che il conchiuso del Trattato di Berlino sopra quest'oggetto è molto chiaro, perciò mi prendo la libertà di trascriverlo qui letteralmente, perchè sua Eccellenza possa pienamente erudirsi sul suo preciso senso.

In fine posso accertare l'Eccellenza vostra che il Governo Montenegrino sarà sempre pronto a dare un efficace assistenza sua ai ogni Maomettano che vorrebbe emigrare dal relativo suo paese, proteggendo coll'egida della legge tutti quei diritti accorduti allo stesso in base delle stabilite Convenzioni. Ed alle assicurazioni da parte di vostra Eccellenza che dichiarasi di adoperare tutti i sforzi per ristabilire le migliori relazioni fra i due Governi, posso assicurarla d'essere io pure animato delle stesse intenzioni, certo di così corrispondere alle vive brame del mio augusto Sovrano e del mio Governo.

Così posso sperare di avere soddisfatto a tutti i desiderj di vostra Eccellenza, passo ad accertarla della mia profonda stima e considerazione.

$\frac{20}{21}$ *Décembre*, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 72.

M. Radonich to the Turkish Envoy.

DEPUIS quelque temps les organes de la Sublime Porte, tant officiers que privés, s'efforcent de propager le bruit que le Gouvernement Monténégrin empêche le retour de ses sujets Musulmans qui avaient émigré, de leur plein gré du reste, en Turquie, et cela dans le but de retenir définitivement leurs biens.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. l'Envoyé, de vouloir bien porter à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte que le Gouvernement de mon auguste Maître proteste énergiquement de frustrer les Musulmans restés dans ses nouvelles acquisitions des bénéfices que leur accorde le Traité de Berlin, et aucun des émigrés revenus dernièrement au Monténégro n'a rencontré la moindre difficulté à reprendre possession de ses biens.

Le Monténégro se déclare prêt à accueillir, comme par le passé, tous les émigrés qui voudraient revenir et leur garantir une entière sécurité pour exploiter leurs propriétés, ou bien pour en disposer à leur convenance, pourvu toutefois qu'ils se conforment aux lois en vigueur dans la Principauté applicables à tous ses sujets sans distinction de culte.

$\frac{8}{20}$ *Decembre*, 1880.

No. 73.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1881, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 20, I should wish to know name and position of your informant as to Albanian designs against Dulcigno, in order to consult Mr. Goschen as to his credibility. Obtain any reports you can of any movement in Albania. Telegrams have appeared in the newspapers that a force under Ali Pasha is being collected to throw off Turkish authority.

No. 74.

Memorandum by Mr. Kirby Green on reported intentions of North-east Albanians to Retake Dulcigno.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 18.)

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's telegram of the 15th, I presume that the Albanian Christian in a high official position who gave him the information concerning the intention of the Albanians to drive the Montenegrins out of Dulcigno is Vassa Effendi.

I am not disposed to attach much value to this information.

1. North-east Albania cannot furnish, even with a levy *en masse*, 35,000 men.

2. All local feeling in the Scutari Vilayet about Dulcigno has been effectually stamped out by Dervish Pasha.

3. The North-east Albanians are perfectly aware that the Turkish Military Commanders are masters at Scutari.

4. Without the possession of Scutari as a base of operations nothing could be undertaken against Dulcigno.

5. The Porte is fully cognisant of the fact, that the Powers will hold it responsible for aggressions on Montenegrin territory proceeding from localities under its control; consequently it is hardly to be feared that the Ottoman authorities will be permitted to revert to their late tactics of assisting the Albanians.

6. The high mountain range dividing North-east from North Albania is a sufficient obstacle at this time of the year to even natives, when they have merely patriotism to assist them in meeting the inclemencies of the season, and the open opposition of the Porte.

I think it possible that Vassa Effendi may have been stating as a fact, but without any other foundation, what he would privately like to occur; or, perhaps, in view of the expected difficulties on the Greek frontier, his superiors may desire to bring forward once more the Albanian bugbear, and be employing him, as a creditable authority, to stalk it about Pera.

I have ever since the murder of Mehemed Ali Posha pointed out that the Turkish Government had abandoned its control in North-east Albania. There disorder may be looked for as long as the Mouchir's assassination remains unpunished, but it is not likely to extend into North or Middle Albania.

Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, considers his little townlet of Gussinjé the most important place in the world, and the Montenegrins the greatest enemies to be conquered. All the while he is permitted to govern his district he will continue to plan raids against the black mountaineers, which not only Prince Nicholas, but also the advocates of the Albanian League, will magnify into importance.

From the anarchy in North-east Albania there is doubtless an ever-increasing danger, not to the province's neighbours, but to itself and the Turkish Empire. If it is allowed to continue much longer, I feel confident the Austrian Government will be forced to step in and interfere in the only manner in which interference is possible when reforms have to be carried out in the Ottoman dominions.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Surbiton, January 18, 1881.

No. 75.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 18, 1881.

THE Montenegrin Government has instructed its Commissioner not to accept proposed line between lake and sea, and to refuse to take part in its delineation.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 76.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 18, 6·40 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 18, 1881, 12·15 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 42.

Information in my telegram No. 20 was confidentially communicated to Consul Calvert at Adrianople by Wassa Effendi, Acting Governor, who begged his name might not be mentioned.

Consul added to me that the news seemed to him doubtful. I should have hesitated to forward it had it not been confirmed by correspondent of "Standard" here, who knows Northern Albania, has been in communication with Albanian Chiefs, who have all left Constantinople, and spoke to me in the same sense as Wassa Effendi to Calvert.

No. 77.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord, *Surbiton, January 19, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, I have now the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a telegram received by me this morning from Voïvoda Radonich, explaining that the Porte's proposal for a modification of the Dulcigno frontier is an attempt to maintain a Turkish footing on the right bank of the River Boyana.

I had no idea whatever that Captain Sale, in explaining the Turkish line, meant by "along the right bank" to remove the frontier from the thalweg of the river, and I certainly cannot agree with him that an arrangement leaving the Turks in possession of, so to say, the two *têtes-de-pont* over the Boyana would be fair towards the Montenegrins, or be an advantageous line of separation between Albania and Montenegro.

I think it would be better that no further attempts should be made to ameliorate the line which was finally offered to Prince Nicholas, and of which the Porte was perfectly cognizant when it accepted the Dulcigno arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 77.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettinjé, le 18 Janvier,* 1881.

J'AI été très étonné de recevoir ce soir une lettre officielle du Capitaine Sale en date de Scutari d'hier. J'ai l'honneur de vous la communiquer *in extenso* :—

"Je sais qu'il pourrait être utile de vous informer que je me suis entretenu avec le Commissaire Turc au sujet de la ligne qu'il est chargé d'adopter. Je lui ai remarqué qu'on pourrait faire objection à ce que la rive droite de la Boyana soit prise comme frontière, par le motif que les vaisseaux Dulcignotes portant le pavillon Monténégrin seraient par là obligés de se réfugier pendant l'hiver dans les eaux Turques. Le Commissaire Turc m'a fait réponse qu'il était prêt ([?] dans le Protocole) à réserver au Monténégro une partie des eaux de la Boyana près de son embouchure amplement suffisante à servir de havre d'hiver pour les vaisseaux Dulcignotes, la navigation de la Boyana étant libre déjà selon le Traité. Ceci fera disparaître toutes objections réelles à cette partie de la ligne Turque. Mon impression est que les Turcs ne consentiront à aucune autre modification de leur ligne, et puisque cette ligne me paraît assez juste j'ai exprimé mon opinion décidée que vous ferez bien d'y consentir si vous désirez voir finir l'affaire. (Signé) SALE."

Permettez-moi d'attirer tout d'abord votre attention sur le ton péremptoire de cette pièce. Vous savez mieux que personne les conditions auxquelles les Grandes Puissances, sur l'initiative de la Grande Bretagne, ont proposé la combinaison Dulcigno-Monténégro. Le Gouvernement de Son Altesse avait tout lieu de croire que le tracé Granville serait obligatoire pour le Monténégro aussi bien que pour la Turquie, et que de plus ce tracé serait definitif. J'ai déjà eu l'honneur de vous communiquer notre point de vue sur le tracé que M. Sale semble vouloir nous imposer. Je vous transmettais en même temps la prière de Son Altesse d'intéresser le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine au maintien de la ligne frontière Granville. Je ne puis que répéter encore une fois cette prière de Son Altesse, qui laisse le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté juge s'il lui est possible d'accepter une modification quelconque de la ligne telle qu'elle est définie dans votre note du 13 Juin, 1880.

No. 78.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received January 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, January 18, 1881, 4 P.M.*

TURKISH armed vessel "Ijalieh" arrived to-day in Suda Bay.

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 5.) *Foreign Office, January 19, 1881, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 67, what are the Montenegrin objections to proposed line?

No. 80.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 22.) *Constantinople, January 9, 1881.*
My Lord,

I AM privately informed that during the last few days a large quantity of munitions of war have been embarked on board of the Imperial armour-plated vessels "Merlondi Nousret" and "Nedjini Nousret," bound for the Archipelago. Also that the armour-plated Imperial vessel "Osmanieh," which left this port a few days ago, is conveying three large fish-shaped torpedoes to Smyrna, and that at the Imperial Arsenal there has of late been great activity shown in the construction of torpedoes.

It is stated that, two nights ago, a quantity of very heavy ordnance was seen to be going on board of a Turkish man-of-war in this harbour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 81.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 27.) *Constantinople, January 11, 1881.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Ahmed Rassim Pasha has been dismissed from his post as Captain Pasha, and that he is replaced by Hassan Pasha, hitherto President of the Council of the Admiralty Department, and now raised to the rank of "Mushir" (Field-Marshal), Minister of Marine and Commander-in-chief of the Imperial Ottoman Navy.

Hobart Pasha is also raised to the rank of "Mushir," and appointed Chief of the Staff at the Admiralty.

It is said that Dilaver Pasha, hitherto Port-Admiral at Constantinople, will be appointed Commander-in-chief of the Turkish squadron in the Mediterranean

I am informed, though not from any official source, that the reason of these changes is as follows:—

The Sultan desired Hobart Pasha to draw up a memorandum on certain changes in the Ottoman Navy suggested by the latter. This memorandum, which was drawn up in English, had to be submitted to His Majesty for approval, and was, in consequence, communicated to the Admiralty for translation into Turkish. On this being done, it was discovered that the document had been so tampered with at the Admiralty as to induce the Sultan to dismiss his Minister.

The promotion of Hobart Pasha to the rank of "Mushir" is attributed to the fact of his introduction into the Ottoman Navy of an apparatus for guarding ships against the approach of torpedoes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 82.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 30.) *Constantinople, January 12, 1881.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Maling respecting the movement of troops at the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Vice-Consul Maling to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Dardanelles, January* 6, 1881.

THE specially-chartered Austrian steamer "Leda," from Constantinople, on her way to Prevesa, called here on the 4th instant. Besides 40 soldiers, she was fully laden with flour for the troops in Epirus, and embarked other 320 soldiers, recruits, at this port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. A. MALING.

No. 83.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a despatch, addressed to me by Lieutenant Chermside, respecting the calling out of the Reserves in the Vilayet of Aidin, as well as their general equipment and readiness to answer the call to arms which contrasts so singularly with the information supplied to Mr. Vincent, as reported in his letter inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 797 of the 30th ultimo, that I take the liberty of forwarding it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 83.

Lieutenant Chermside to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Constantinople, January* 10, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to forward the following:—

The Turks are pushing on military preparations rapidly in the Aidin Vilayet and in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles.

You are aware, Sir, that the Redifs in the Aidin (or Smyrna) Vilayet have been called out, and the men being now mustered include individuals belonging to both levies or "bans" ("Saif Mukaddim" and "Saif Sani"), the second of which theoretically is only called out in great emergencies.

Hilmi Pasha, now at Smyrna, is the officer specially detailed for the mustering and forwarding of troops.

The recent changes in the organization and distribution of local head-quarters render it extremely difficult to tabulate information systematically, as in the interior, for example, the Sivas and Trebizond commands (IVth corps, Smyrna being Ist), the distribution of centres has been much changed, the latter now including 24 battalion centres under command of a Pasha at Sivas.

I may mention incidentally that I have been much surprised to find how during the past year the Turks, impoverished as the Treasury is, have managed to furnish the reservist depôts with arms and generally with ammunition. Two or three battalions, according to the urgency of the situation, can be called out from every battalion centre: in all the centres I have visited during the past year there have been 800 stands of arms and upwards, as far as I could learn, that is at least enough for one battalion. In the interior there was not clothing.

During the war there was a third levy of Redifs ("Saif Salis"), and the officers belonging to this have been embodied with the cadres of the 1st and 2nd levies, so that in almost all the centres in the interior the battalion cadres are well furnished with officers, most of them men who have seen active service. When I left Sivas the Redifs of the IVth corps had not been called on, and those of the 1st corps from Angora all the way to Constantinople had not been actually called out, but there was considerable activity in expectation of such orders.

In spite of the great confusion, neglect, and arrears in the registers which I have mentioned in former reports, in the districts where mustering is at present carried on, the Government seems able to find men, as this is mostly in localities whence communication is easy, that is, in parts of Anatolia near the coast; considering the patient, docile character

of the Anatolian Moslem, this is not to be wondered at, and would form no criterion of the difficulties that would be probably encountered in Kurdistan and Arabistan if it proved necessary to call on men from these regions. There is no doubt that if the battalions are mobilized for any length of time the strain on the Moslem population, already much exhausted by the calls of the last war, will be very great, especially when the agricultural distress due to locusts and other causes is taken into consideration.

You have already been informed of the estimated number of Redifs for the muster in the Aidin district; I am informed that so far over 15,000 have been mustered. I have not been able to form a very definite opinion, owing to very conflicting rumours, as to the percentage of desertions or the spirit of the men: I am inclined to believe the former less than might be expected, and the latter to be good.

The Redifs of the Aidin Sandjak are mustering at Denizlu, Nazlu, Aidin, &c.; none of the battalions, I believe, have yet marched; those at Aidin were expected to be ready in three weeks or so from now. Battalions from the Manisa Sandjak, however, have marched. I saw six of them under arms, five battalions, of Anatolian Turks, armed with Peabody-Henrys, clothed in serviceable though part worn clothing, fairly equipped and shod (I did not see great coats). Owing to absentees on guard, fatigue, &c., I do not know the real strength of battalions; the parade strength averaged between 600 and 700; but I was told by Redif officers that the battalions were between 800 and 900 strong. The same officers told me they were quite surprised at the way the reservists had answered the summons to the colours. At Ghuirdbes (known for its carpet factories), a new enrolling station, a battalion of 850 was mustered without difficulty.

Three or four of these battalions were, I was told, of the first levy, and were destined for embarkation and despatch to Momstir; the remainder are of the second levy. There is also a battalion of Nizams or regulars at Smyrna, bringing its present garrison up to seven battalions.

The conscripts, many of whom during the past three years, after being drawn, have been left in their homes, are being collected and dispatched chiefly to the Dardanelles, which is a large receiving station for clothing and forwarding men to Salonica, Adrianople, &c.

Concerning the activity at the Dardanelles, and the new earthworks above the existing forts on the Asiatic side, you have, Sir, I believe, received reports. At Ren-keui, half-way between the Dardanelles and Besika, I observed in passing what was said to be new earthwork. If this be so, there is more significance perhaps in the idea of its construction than importance in it *per se*. The fort at the point below Maitos (Europe) is overlooked from the hill above. Work is going on on this site, as to the nature of which my information is, I regret to say, equally indefinite.

At the Boulair lines there is one battalion and some garrison artillerymen; at Yeni-keui, a village seven miles west-south-west of Gallipoli on the crest overlooking the Gulf of Saros, earthworks, I heard at Gallipoli, are being constructed. These latter, indeed, the whole of the preparations in the vicinity of the Dardanelles, must, I imagine, be rather in view of any complications with European Powers the Greek difficulty may bring on than as defensive measures necessitated by any possible action of the Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 84.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 7, 1881.

IN extension of my telegram No. 62 of the 5th instant to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that, as I myself, together with the Russian, German, and Montenegrin Commissioners, were passing the position of St. Giorgio (near the Bojana, close to Lake Sas), *en route* from Dulcigno to Scutari, I invited the Turkish Commissioner to meet us there, in order that we might execute certain preliminary topographical work at this point.

The Turkish Commissioner did not meet us; he sent the Assistant Commissioner, who informed us that he had no instructions except to receive us, and could not take part in any work.

I subsequently received a communication from the Turkish Commissioner, who informed me that he had neither instructions nor orders as to joining in the work of delimitating the frontier, and could not, therefore, at present, take any part in the Commission.

On the receipt of this communication, which seems wholly at variance with the reply of the Porte conveyed in Mr. St. John's telegram No. 385 of the 19th ultimo, it was apparent that no present progress could be made in the work of demarcation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 85.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

E
(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 7, 1881.

ADVERTING to your Lordship's telegram No. 53 of the 24th ultimo, repeating telegram No. 210 of the 22nd ultimo from Sir H. Elliot, I have the honour to remark that Count Haymerle would seem to be misinformed as to the supposed abandonment of the village of Leskovné by the Turks.

Both from Turkish and Montenegrin sources I learn that Leskovač and Kolinan are still in possession of the Turks, who have no present intention of abandoning them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 86.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 7, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report that, when in Dulcigno on the 4th and 5th instant, I took the opportunity to inquire as to the state of the Mussulman population left in that town under Montenegrin rule.

The Mahommedans themselves stated that so far they had nothing to complain of, and that they were well treated.

Up to the present time the number of emigrants from Dulcigno is quite inconsiderable, and there are no signs of discontent, or of any falling off in the trade of the bazaar.

But though the Montenegrins have promised, in the Convention made before the cession of the place, to put no hindrance in the way of free emigration, there is a law in force under the Prince's Government which would, in practice, render it almost impossible, for those who might wish to emigrate, to realize their property.

Under this law, no one who is not a Montenegrin is allowed to hold land or real property, and as there are practically no Montenegrin buyers, there would be no means of effecting the sale of the houses and lands of would-be emigrants.

I was informed by the Montenegrin Governor of Dulcigno himself that this law is actually in force, and has not been relaxed.

I venture to bring this to your Lordship's notice, for it would be very regrettable if, after the recent and binding engagements entered into by Montenegro to permit free emigration, emigration were in fact hindered by what would be tantamount to a more or less complete confiscation of the houses and lands of those Mahommedans who might not choose to remain.

It is right to mention that the Governor of Dulcigno at the same time stated that he believed that the Prince had the intention of changing the law, with a view to encouraging immigration into the newly-acquired territories of Dulcigno; but, on the other hand, I am informed that at Podgoritza the houses and lands of many Mussulman absentees have been taken possession of by the Montenegrins without payment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 87.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

E
(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 8, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report my arrival at this place on the 6th instant.

I took the earliest opportunity of visiting Dervish Pasha, and was received by him with much courtesy.

During my interview the Turkish Commissioner was present, and the conversation turned mostly on the new frontier and the recent transfer of Dulcigno.

The substance of what Dervish Pasha stated was as follows:—

That he had received from the Porte a notification that the Commission would assemble, together with orders to arrange for its security; but that neither he nor the Turkish Commissioner had received any such instructions as would warrant the latter in taking part in the delimitation.

His Excellency spoke at great length and with much emphasis on what he deemed the defective arrangement of the new line, which gave one bank of the Boyana to Montenegro and the other to Albania. He requested that the Commissioners would take this into consideration, and would endeavour to remedy the evil by tracing another line. He added that he had represented this defect, which he considered a fatal one, to Constantinople, and was expecting instructions in the matter.

The impression which I derived from the interview was that the demarcation of the line between the lake and the sea will be opposed by the local authorities, and that Dervish Pasha and the Turkish Commissioner, Bedri Bey, who is entirely under his orders, will endeavour to make use of the Commission as a means of raising the question of changing once more the new frontier line.

Both Dervish Pasha and the Turkish Commissioner stated that they had no official cognizance of the line of frontier between the lake and the sea as proposed by the Powers; and Dervish Pasha added that, when handing over the Dulcigno district only, he did not deem himself bound to retire his troops behind the line proposed by the Powers, except where that line chanced to coincide with the boundaries of the said district.

The Turkish Commissioner added, somewhat inconsistently, that at the time the cession was carried out he could have joined the Commission in demarcating the line, but now that the urgency of the affair was passed he was not in a position to do so.

It appeared to me, I regret to state, that during the interval which has elapsed since the cession of Dulcigno, Dervish Pasha has been prevailed upon to oppose any permanent settlement of the new boundary, and it is not probable that in so doing he is not justified by his orders.

Under the circumstances, it is to be feared that the meeting of the Commission, in the present lack of any complete understanding as to what is accepted by both Turks and Montenegrins as the new frontier line, will be more likely to do harm than good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 88.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 20.)

E
(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Rome, January* 15, 1881.

I LOST no time in acquainting Count Maffei with the modified line of frontier proposed by the Turkish Commissioner, as reported in Captain Sale's telegram No. 64, repeated in your Lordship's No. 28 of the 12th instant, and that Her Majesty's Government approved the line proposed by the Turkish Commissioner, if the other Powers did so likewise.

Count Maffei requested me to give him the Turkish proposal in writing, which I accordingly did; and yesterday afternoon he called upon me, and said that the line suggested had been submitted to Colonel Ottolenghi, late Italian Boundary Commissioner in Montenegro, who thought it an improvement upon the other line, and the Italian Government consequently accepted it, if it was agreed to by the other Powers.

At the same time, Count Maffei showed me a telegram sent by Major Boselli, the new Italian Commissioner from Gravosa, stating that he and the French Commissioner would leave that place for Scutari on the 18th instant.

I at once sent a telegram to Captain Sale, from whom I received one a few days ago, making inquiries as to his Italian colleague, giving him the above information; and I likewise acquainted him with the consent of the Italian Government to the proposal of the Turkish Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 89.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 20, 1881.*

FOLLOWING received from Consul-General Blunt, dated yesterday:—

"I have heard that Porte has decided upon assuming determined attitude towards Albanian League of Uscup. It has recalled Osman Pasha, Governor of Cossova, and appointed in his room Kurd Ismail Pasha. The latter daily expected here from Constantinople with two battalions of infantry for Uscup."

No. 90.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 20, 1881, 4 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt, dated to-day:—

"With reference to my telegram of yesterday evening, state of affairs in Vilayet of Cossova is daily becoming more serious. It is rumoured that Albanian League is concentrating a large number of armed men in vicinity of Pristina. I am sending to Uscup a confidential agent to procure information."

No. 91.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 31. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 20, 1881.*

I HAVE to express my approval of your action in reporting to the Sultan the information which you received of a plot against His Majesty, as described in your despatch No. 1, Confidential, of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 92.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.[*]

(No. 34. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 20, 1881.*

A REPORT has reached Her Majesty's Government that a defensive Treaty has been signed between Turkey and Roumania, with the assent of Austria and with the knowledge of Prince Bismarck.

According to its stipulations, Roumania is to resist Russian influence and to foster the Kotzo-Wallachian League in Thessaly, whilst Austria undertakes to protect her against the consequences of such a policy.

From another source I am informed that a project has been drawn up of a Treaty of offensive and defensive alliance between Germany, Austria, and Turkey, by which the latter Power engages, in case of war, to provide 300,000 men, abandons to Austria all her rights over Bosnia, and leaves her entire freedom of action with regard to Servia. The Principality of Bulgaria is to become tributary under German and Austrian protection, and the tribute is to be employed in paying Turkey's debts. The Island of Cyprus, her

[*] Also to Mr. White (No. 2), Sir H. Elliot (No. 23), and Lord Odo Russell No. 35).

ancient frontiers in Asia, are to be restored to her, and the Statute for Eastern Roumelia is to be remodelled.

I have to request you to communicate to me without delay any information which you may be able to obtain in any way bearing on these rumours.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 93.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 1. Political.) *Salonica, January 11, 1881.*

My Lord,

A TURKISH merchant-steamer landed here this morning 350 recruits from Constantinople and 1,000 cases of small ammunition.

I hear that the military authorities of Salonica have determined to fortify Cape Kara (Kara Bournoü), to which locality they have already dispatched a battalion of infantry with the necessary camp equipage, tentage, and tools.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 94.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 2. Political.) *Salonica, January 11, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a notification, as published in the "Salonica Gazette," offering rewards for the destruction or capture of brigands in this vilayet.

This measure has already had a good effect, for since its publication several brigands have been killed in the districts of Catterina and Cassandra.

In other parts of the Vilayet of Salonica, especially in the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, comparative tranquillity prevails; but in the Vilayet of Monastir, as well as in the Sandjak of Thessaly, serious acts of brigandage have been perpetrated within the last three weeks.

An English gentleman, who arrived here from Volo the day before yesterday, tells me that on or about the 27th ultimo the Greek brigand chief, Ballachos, with his band of thirty-five men, attacked the large village of Zagora, on Mount Pelion, and carried off nine children of the wealthiest families in the place!

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Notification in the "Salonica Gazette" of December 30, 1880.

(Traduction.)

SON Excellence le Ministre de l'Intérieur annonce que par suite de la demande du Gouverneur-Général, Sa Majesté Impériale a sanctionné par Iradé Impérial la mesure d'offrir aux guides des détachements militaires destinés à la poursuite des brigands la somme de 5,000 piastres pour chaque chef brigand tué ou capturé pendant la poursuite, et la somme de 1,000 piastres pour chaque simple brigand tué ou capturé.

Ces sommes seront payées par les Caisses locales ("mal-sandighi").

Notre Gouverneur, se conformant aux ordres du Ministre de l'Intérieur, a communiqué cette mesure aux districts dépendant de ce vilayet, et s'empresse de la notifier au public par le canal de ce journal.

No. 95.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 14, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 161 of the 19th ultimo relative to the state of affairs in Uscup, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the manager of the Salonica Railway received a telegram this evening from the station-master at Uscup, stating that the Albanian League has threatened to "destroy the railway and massacre all its officials, should any more Turkish troops or war material be carried down the line from Mitrovitza to Uscup."

My informant also tells me that the new Mutessarif of Uscup, Tahiar Pasha, who arrived there on the 8th instant, has been summoned by the League to desist from any interference in the local administration; further, that numerous armed bands of Albanians have arrived at Uscup from Prisrend and other localities in North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 96.

Consuls-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 12, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a translated copy of the telegram from Uscup, the substance of which I reported in my preceding despatch of yesterday's date.

It has been confidentially communicated to me by a trustworthy source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Telegram received from Uscup.

(Translation from the German.)
(Confidentiel.) *Station d'Uscup, le* 10 *Janvier*, 1881.

DE la part de la Ligue Albanoise il a été demandé aujourd'hui un employé de notre station se présenter au Conseil de la Ligue qui a eu lieu au Conak cet après-midi. J'ai envoyé M. Stavrides: premièrement on a demandé sa parole d'honneur ("bessa") pour exécuter ce qui suit:—

Il est sérieusement défendu au chemin de fer à accepter des transports militaires, soit canons, fusils, munitions, soldats, &c., de la haute ligne de toutes les stations vers Uscup.

Dans le cas qu'on ignorerait ces ordres et qu'il arriverait encore ici des transports militaires de la haute ligne (Mitrovitza) tout le personnel de la station d'Uscup serait massacré et même la ligne serait détruite.

Ensuite on a exigé de donner ordre à la haute ligne de n'accepter aucun transport militaire pour aucune destination. En plus, on lui a dit qu'il pourrait faire part de cet ordre au Padichah, aux Consulats, et à qui que ce soit, que cela leur resterait fort egal.

Les transports de Salonique pour toutes les destinations sont permis.

No. 97.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

E
(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 11, 1881.

THE Turkish Commissioner last night came to me and informed me that he had just received orders direct from the Porte to join the work of the Commission at once. He is furnished with precise instructions as to the new frontier, and is directed to adopt a line which differs slightly from that proposed by the Powers.

The line which the Turkish Commissioner is directed to adopt may be defined as follows:—Starting from the Adriatic, it follows the right bank of the Boyana, the right bank of the effluent of Lake Saš, and the southern shore of that lake; from thence it passes up the River Megured as far as the point No. IX of my map, from whence it follows my line to the Lake of Scutari.

This line is better physically than that proposed by the Powers, as it is more natural and simple, and it gives rather more territory to Montenegro than is given by the latter line.

The principal differences are (1) that it takes the right bank of the Boyana instead of the thalweg; and (2) that it leaves the villages of Kalman and Leskovce to the Turks, giving, in lieu thereof, ground on the right bank of the Megured River.

The first difference is not of much importance, the waters of the Boyana being already free to Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin. As to the second, the Montenegrins may perhaps urge that the portions of Kalman and Megured are necessary to them from a military point of view, but in my judgment this is not the case.

The Turkish Commissioner has repeatedly informed me that he has no official cognizance of the line proposed by the Powers, which has, he says, never been accepted by the Porte. It does not seem probable, therefore, that he will, in any case, work with us in the demarcation of that line; whereas, if the line he now proposes, which seems to me fair enough, be accepted by Montenegro, we could get the affair settled in two or three days.

Under these circumstances, I have asked by telegraph (No. 64 of this day's date) from your Lordship if I am at liberty to support it myself, as the best way of finishing the matter.

A tracing showing the two lines is inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 98.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 30.) *Constantinople, January* 21, 1881.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed by Baker Pasha that English gendarmerie officers' contracts are renewed. Details not yet known.

No. 99.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21.)

(No. 12.) *St. Petersburgh, January* 21, 1881.
(Telegraphic.)

MONTENEGRIN Government have asked Russian Government to transmit following message to Her Majesty's Government:—

They would, if the Powers insist, accept that part of the frontier-line recently suggested between lake and Boyana, but they cannot consent to give up thalweg of that river; without it, district of Dulcigno has no importance; they would have no commercial outlet.

Montenegro begs for support of Her Majesty's Government in this matter. M. de Giers says orders have been sent to Russian Commissioner to support Montenegrin decision. His Excellency hopes that Her Majesty's Government will do the same.

No. 100.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received January 21, 1 P.M.)

Canea, January 21, 1881.
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH armed ship "Mukaddem-Khair" left yesterday for Constantinople.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE LONDON

No. 101.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 21, 1881, 4·10 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 20 of yesterday.

Instruct Mr. Blunt as you propose.

No. 102.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1881.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 12, we are waiting to learn from Captain Sale the Montenegrin objections. Navigation of the Boyana is already secured to Montenegro by Treaty.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1881, 10 P.M.

WE are receiving representations through different Governments of the importance attached by the Prince of Montenegro to the frontier being drawn down the thalweg instead of along the right bank of the Boyana.

I did not understand, when the Turkish proposal was recommended on your advice to the acceptance of the other Powers, that the usual practice of taking the middle of rivers as boundary was to be departed from. Do not pledge yourself in any way to the Turkish line down the Boyana, and telegraph at once what are the Montenegrin objections, and the objects of the Turks, with your remarks.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 28. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 12 of the 22nd instant, transmitting the message which the Montenegrin Government had asked the Russian Government to communicate to Her Majesty's Government, stating that they were ready, if the Powers insisted, to accept the frontier line proposed by the Turkish Boundary Commission between the Lake of Scutari and the River Boyana, but that they could not consent to give up the thalweg of that river.

Her Majesty's Government can return no reply to the request of the Montenegrin Government asking for their support of this view of the question until they learn from Captain Sale full particulars of the objections raised by Montenegro; but in the meanwhile they would observe that the navigation of the Boyana is already secured to Montenegro by Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 5. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1881.

REPRESENTATIONS have been made to Her Majesty's Government through other Powers of the importance attached by the Prince of Montenegro to the drawing of the new frontier line down the thalweg of the Boyana instead of along the right bank of that river.

The Turkish proposal was recommended to the acceptance of the other Governments on your advice, but I did not understand at that time that there was any intention of departing from the usual practice of taking the thalweg of a river as the line of a boundary.

I have accordingly to instruct you not to pledge yourself to accept the line, which would leave the right bank of the Boyana to Turkey, but to let me know by telegraph what are the Montenegrin objections to the proposal, as well as the reasons which have induced the Turkish Government to make it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 106.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 22, 1881.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires having inquired, by order of his Government, how Her Majesty's Government proposed to deal with the request which the Porte has addressed to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin that they should proceed, in accordance with Article IX of that Treaty, to fix the annual amount of tribute to be paid by the Principality of Bulgaria, I took the opportunity, when M. de Ressman called at this Office the other day, of showing to him my despatches No. 682 of the 25th October to Mr. Goschen, and No. 16 of the 7th instant to Mr. St. John.

Copies of these despatches are already in your Excellency's possession, and you will perceive from my despatch to Mr. St. John that I have told the Turkish Ambassador that, as soon as I was officially informed that the delimitation of the boundary of Bulgaria had been accepted by the Porte, I should be ready to join with the other Powers in considering the amount of the Bulgarian tribute.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 107.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23, *noon.)*

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 23, 1881, 10·15 A.M.

YESTERDAY, by chance, four Representatives of Great Powers met at Austrian Embassy. We were all impressed with the fact that there is great anxiety at the Porte as to Albanian movement, and an equally great desire to make it appear unimportant.

No. 108.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 23, 1881, 10·20 A.M.

THERE is an impression at the Porte that Austria and Italy are fomenting agitation in North Albania, and that, in view of this fact, every effort must be made by Turkey to regain confidence of England.

No. 109.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January* 23, 1881, 5 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN frontier.

Baron Haymerle expresses no opinion on the question of the thalweg, but still thinks that it should be left to the Commissioners.

No. 110.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January* 24.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le* 13 *Janvier*, 1881.

DANS un rapport qu'elle vient de m'adresser, la Légation Impériale à Cettinjé signale à la Sublime Porte le sort navrant des émigrés Musulmans des territoires annexés au Monténégro. Leurs champs, leurs maisons, oliviers, en un mot, tous leurs biens sont impitoyablement confisqués par le Gouvernement Princier. Dépouillés ainsi tout de leur avoir, les malheureux émigrés en sont réduits à mendier leur pain.

Malgré les assurances formelles et réitérées données à Khalid Bey par Son Altesse le Prince Nicolas, rien n'a encore été fait pour ces infortunés.

Aujourd'hui que le Traité de Berlin se trouve avoir reçu sa pleine et entière exécution à l'égard du Monténégro, celui-ci ne saurait se dérober aux obligations que lui impose cet acte international. La Sublime Porte ne doute point que son opinion ne soit partagée par les Puissances Signataires. C'est dans cette conviction que je viens vous prier de faire auprès de M. le Principal Secrétaire d'État au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique de nouvelles démarches en vue de l'engager à faire parvenir à Cettinjé des recommandations énergiques et propres à amener l'amélioration du sort des émigrés du Monténégro.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 111.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 24, 1881, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, express thanks to Government to which you are accredited for courteous compliance with regard to use of English in Egypt.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 65.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 24, 1881.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 41 of the 15th instant, inclosing copy of a note which you addressed to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs on that day, suggesting that the French Commissioner on the Montenegrin Frontier Commission should be instructed to support the modified frontier line proposed by the Ottoman Commissioner, and I have to convey to your Excellency my approval of the terms of the note in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 113.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 19. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 14, 1881.

CAPTAIN SALE has reported to your Lordship that the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner stated himself to be authorized to support the Turkish project of delimitation of the district of Dulcigno.

I understand from Baron Haymerle that he has not himself given an opinion upon this proposal, but he had allowed M. Lippich so nearly *carte blanche* in dealing with the details concerning the frontier that he no doubt thought himself authorized to pronounce in favour of the project without further reference to his Government.

[a] Also to Sir A. Paget (No. 67).

Baron Haymerle is of opinion that the settlement of the frontier will be facilitated by allowing the Commissioners as much liberty of action as possible, the decision of the majority of them upon every question being accepted as final.

The question whether the thalweg or the bank of the river was to be the frontier appeared to me hardly a matter of detail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 114.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Antivari, January* 23, 1881.

THE telegraph line to Scutari being interrupted by snow and storms, no intelligible telegrams have been received from Foreign Office since those sent on the 14th instant; may others send subsequently be repeated to me to Antivari, from whence they will be forwarded by hand? Both Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners state that they could not depart in the slightest degree from line laid down in their several instructions even if they were in a minority of one; and that they feel sure that their instructions will not be modified. Under these circumstances, there does not seem any probability of the Commissioners deciding anything. The French and Italian Commissioners have, it is understood, gone on to Corfu without landing; their return here is improbable; the other non-resident Commissioners propose leaving.

Since my arrival here the weather has been such as to render all demarcation impracticable, even if a line could be agreed upon.

Under these circumstances, I propose, with your Lordship's approval, to return to England, as we can do nothing [?] until spring.

May I have telegraphic reply addressed to Antivari and a duplicate to Scutari? The messenger who takes this to Antivari will await there the reply.

No. 115.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 25.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 24, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 5 of the 19th instant, the Montenegrin Commissioner states that the Montenegrin Government objects on principle to the smallest departure from the line which the Prince accepted in June last at the instigation of the English Chargé d'Affaires. He persists in saying said line was virtually guaranteed to Montenegro by England. The real reason is, I believe, that the Montenegrins desire to get a right to control the Boyana River; but the Turkish Commissioner says that the Porte will in no case concede to Montenegro the part possession of the river, fearing probably to give Austria a footing therein by the use of the maritime trade clause of the Treaty of Berlin.

With reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 4 of the 14th instant, I understand from both the Russian and Montenegrin Commissioners that they think the question one which the Commission cannot decide, and will abstain should a vote be taken. In no case would either Turkish or [† Montenegrin] Commissioner accept adverse decision of the majority.

Telegram No. 68 of yesterday sent by Antivari to your Lordship, communication to Scutari being then interrupted; it is now re-established.

No. 116.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 25, 7 P.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 25, 1881, 11 A.M.

YOUR Lordship's telegrams Nos. 6, 7, and 8 just received.

No. 8 was answered by mine No. 69 of yesterday. I am not pledged in any way to the question of the boundary on the river.

The French and Italian Commissioners have just arrived here quite unexpectedly.

Telegraph line to Scutari now again open.

No. 117.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 25, 3 P.M.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 25, 1881, 12·45 P.M.*

THE impression prevails here that the Turkish proposal of the 14th instant has been favourably received by all the Great Powers except England; also, Baker Pasha, who now frequently sees the Sultan, tells me His Majesty trusts that England will accept. It would render easier, His Majesty said, the removal of the general idea among his Mussulman subjects that England is hostile to them.

No. 118.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 25, 7·45 P.M.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 25, 1881, 3·5 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 30 of 21st instant.

Baker Pasha informs me that the Sultan has sanctioned renewal of British gendarmerie officers' contracts for twelve months.

No. 119.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 25, 6 P.M.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January 25, 1881.*

THE French Ambassador has been instructed to inform the German Government that the French Government is willing to accept the Austrian or Russian proposal if the other Powers agree to either.

No. 120.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 25, 1881, 6·10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 68, you should await further instructions at Scutari. Telegrams numbered 3 to 9 have been sent to you since 14th instant, but I understand, from your telegram No. 69, that you have now received them.

No. 121.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 25, 1881.*

YOUR telegram No. 69 of the 24th January.

I do not understand your explanations. The right bank of the Boyana was mentioned in the collective note to the Porte of the 3rd August as forming part of the Dulcigno district to be assigned to Montenegro, and in the Convention between the Turks and Montenegrins of the 25th November it was provided that, "the Montenegrin troops shall take possession of the right bank of the Boyana."

The "thalweg" is mentioned in the memorandum communicated to the Porte on the 9th August, and in Mr. Green's note to Prince of Montenegro of the 13th June.

Full and complete freedom of navigation of the Boyana is secured by Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 122.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.[1]

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 25, 1881, 6·20 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated confidentially to the Russian Ambassador substance of my telegram to Sir H. Elliot No. 52 of to-day.

No. 123.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 25, 1881, 6·20 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 9 of yesterday.

Tell Baron Haymerle that Her Majesty's Government are unwilling to abandon the decision arrived at at Berlin without seeing their way to a successful result.

They do not, however, desire to impede negotiations for a peaceful settlement, and would prefer the course we understood was at first indicated by Prince Bismarck, namely, first to ask the Porte, confidentially, what concessions it is prepared to make over and above the line conceded in their note of the 3rd October, and then to let the Ambassadors negotiate concessions on that basis at Constantinople, and ask for compensation to Greece for those portions of Berlin Award the Porte desires to retain.

Nevertheless, if the Austrian Government has received confidential but satisfactory assurances through Baron Calice that the Porte is prepared to go beyond the note of the 3rd October, Her Majesty's Government are ready, on that understanding, to answer, if the other Powers concur, in the terms proposed by Baron Haymerle, reported in your telegram No. 7 of the 20th instant, viz., that the Powers take act of conciliatory assurances given by the Sultan's Government, and that the Representatives would examine any proposals made to them, and then decide whether they offer a basis for negotiation.

No. 124.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 25, 1881, 6·45 P.M.*

COMMUNICATE at once to Italian Government substance of my telegram to Sir H. Elliot No. 52 of to-day.

No. 125.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, January 18, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, according to information received here, affairs are in a very unsettled condition in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar beyond the Austrian lines. The Ottoman officials have but little authority in the country, the conscription cannot be enforced, and matters are fast drifting on to the same state that obtained in Bosnia in 1878 prior to the Austrian occupation.

Within the Austrian lines tranquillity appears to reign, barring a certain amount of brigandage, and the Austrian garrison seem to maintain amicable relations with the native population as well as with the Ottoman authorities. The presence of the Austrians naturally brings some money into the country, and therefore, as long as they abstain from interference in the civil administration, they are regarded with no ill-feeling. They do all they can to win over the Mussulman population to their cause, and with this end in view give all army contracts to local Mussulmans, although they might obtain their supplies through the merchants of this town at 20 to 30 per cent. lower rates.

I am also told that preliminary contracts have been entered into against the contingency of a further Austrian advance. There is very little doubt that such an advance will

[1] Also to Lord Lyons (No. 41).

take place in the event of hostilities between Turkey and Greece, an eventuality which I think I am justified in saying is regarded with considerable satisfaction by the Austrian military party.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 126.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 25, 1881.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship of yesterday No. 69, both Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners are acting under precise instructions, and may not know the reasons which actuate their Governments.

I would further explain that the mouth of the Boyana serves as a harbour for coasting craft; hence the right half would fall under Austrian maritime supervision if given to Montenegro. As the thalweg at the mouth is indefinite, this would give Austria an occasion, if required, to interfere with Turkish ships using the river.

The Turks are entirely opposed to giving any part of the river to Montenegro, and Dervish Pasha made no secret of his intention to urge at the Porte that the control of both banks of the Boyana must never pass out of Turkish hands.

No. 127.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 26, 1881, 4·45 P.M.*

WITH reference to Captain Sale's telegram No. 68, ask Austrian Government what they think should be done respecting disputed point as to right bank of Boyana. It will have a very bad effect if the Commissioners come home and the question is left open till the spring. Captain Sale has been ordered to await further instructions.

No. 128.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 26, 1881, 7·30 P.M.*

TURKISH Commissioner is impeding settlement of Montenegrin frontier by a claim that line should be drawn down right bank of Boyana. We did not understand that this would be the effect of the modification of which Captain Sale had recommended acceptance on the 11th instant, and have called upon him for full explanations. The claim is contrary to the description of Dulcigno district communicated to Montenegro on the 13th June by Mr. Kirby Green, and to the Porte in the collective note of the 3rd August and memorandum of the 9th August; also to Turco-Montenegrin Convention of the 25th November.

Sale has been instructed to await orders at Scutari, and we are consulting Austria.

No. 129.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 25. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 26, 1881.*

YOUR Excellency will have learned from the telegrams from Captain Sale of the 24th instant, which have been repeated to you, the difficulties which have arisen from the claim of the Turkish Commissioner that the frontier between Turkey and Montenegro of the Dulcigno district should be drawn from the right bank of the Boyana instead of down the thalweg. I should wish your Excellency to inquire what course the Austro-Hungarian Government consider to be best to pursue in the matter. It would, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, have a bad effect if the Commissioners were to separate and leave

the question open till the spring. Instructions have been sent to Captain Sale directing him to await the receipt of further orders.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 130.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 42. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 26, 1881.*

HER Majesty's Government learn that the Turkish Commissioner at Scutari is impeding the settlement of the Montenegro frontier question by advancing a claim to have the frontier-line drawn down the right bank of the Boyana.

Her Majesty's Government did not understand that such an arrangement would be the effect of the modification of which Captain Sale had recommended the acceptance on the 11th instant, and have consequently called on that officer for full explanations.

The Turkish claim is contrary to the description of the district of Dulcigno communicated to Montenegro by Mr. Kirby Green on the 15th June last, and to the Porte in the collective note of the 3rd August; it is also opposed to the terms of the memorandum of the 9th August, and to the stipulations of the Turco-Montenegrin Convention of the 25th November.

Her Majesty's Government are now in communication with the Austro-Hungarian Government on this subject, and in the meanwhile Captain Sale has been instructed to await instructions at Scutari.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 131.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

E
(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January 15, 1881.*

THE Government of Crete has been conducted for some time past with a regularity and order which argue well for the institutions with which the island has been endowed. The power accorded to the Cretans of giving utterance to their opinions and setting forth their grievances by means of a popular Assembly has contributed more than anything else to satisfy them with the new régime. During the greater part of the year, when there is no Parliament sitting, advantage is taken of the local press to ventilate topics of public interest, and a lively discussion is carried on by its means of questions which are destined to engage the attention of the next Assembly. One of the first acts of the Assembly was to vote the suppression, as a weekly periodical, of the official newspaper, which is now only published at uncertain intervals for giving publicity to official notifications. In its place have sprung up two independent journals, one published at Canea, and the other at Candia, which discuss in the freest manner all questions of local interest, and in the latter newspaper especially these discussions are conducted with a moderation and good sense one could hardly expect to find in a country just emerging from the tutelage of an arbitrary Government. It is almost superfluous to say that it is by the Christian population alone that these papers are read, for, being written in modern Greek, they obtain no circulation among the Mussulmans, who, though they speak, cannot read that language. Hitherto the latter have no organ of their own, which is to be regretted, as it is only due to themselves that they should put in the most advantageous light matters which affect them equally with the Christians.

The journals above mentioned serve a useful purpose in preparing the public for the understanding of questions which are to come before the General Assembly. The two most important subjects which have occupied their columns the last few months relate to the right claimed by the Assembly to the exclusive preparation of the Island Budget, and to the claims of certain mosques to the tithes of considerable districts, estimated at several thousand pounds annually.

The former subject has been brought into prominence in consequence of the refusal of the Porte to sanction certain reductions in the salaries of officials. Already, in the first meeting of the reformed Assembly in 1879, a general reduction of salaries was effected, but

when, at its last meeting, the Deputies proceeded still further to cut them down, the Porte interposed its veto. From one point of view it was right in objecting to the reductions, as it justly thought that efficiency could not be secured without adequate remuneration, but the Cretans stand on the principle that to them, as taxpayers, belongs the power of the purse, and they are resolved to insist on their exclusive right to control the expenditure. The other question, concerning the payment of tithes to certain mosques, and even to Mussulman landowners, is one involved in some obscurity, but it will be thoroughly examined at the next Session of the Assembly, and a vote taken on it. It is generally thought that the Deputies will also demand that the right be conceded to the Cretans which was inserted in the Constitution granted to Eastern Roumelia, viz., that if within two months of the passing of a law by the Assembly the Porte shall have pronounced no decision on it, its silence shall be interpreted as equivalent to an official sanction. During the last two years six months have elapsed before the Imperial confirmation was obtained, and on both occasions it was necessary for the Vali to proceed himself to Constantinople before Ministers could be induced to give Cretan affairs the slightest attention.

The Christians are also dissatisfied with the provision inserted in the Convention made with the Porte in 1878, which requires that a two-thirds vote of the Assembly shall be necessary for the passing of laws affecting the general interests of the islanders. This provision was devised in order that the adhesion of some, at least, of the Mussulman minority might be obtained for the passing of such laws, but as that minority nearly always votes in a body, their opposition suffices to neutralize the numerical preponderance enjoyed by the Christians in the Assembly. They are therefore prepared to agitate for a change of the law in this respect.

The financial position of the island, thanks to an abundant crop of olives, now being gathered, is eminently satisfactory. As the expenses of administration must be defrayed entirely out of the tithes, a bad harvest renders the island unequal to the task of meeting its normal expenditure. The customs dues, estimated to bring in between £T. 30,000 and £T. 40,000 a-year, and the taxes on salt, tobacco, silk, &c., estimated at scarcely £T. 4,000, are appropriated by the Porte, leaving only the tithes and sheep tax for the local expenses, and as the latter is levied at only ½*d.* a-head, it brings in but the paltry sum of £T. 2,000. Thus it happened that there was a deficiency last year so considerable as to necessitate the borrowing, on onerous terms, of £T. 20,000, which is now being repaid out of the receipts of the current year. The tithes on grain and all other produce except olives have been farmed during the present financial year ending on the 12th March next for more than £T. 50,000, and those on olives for nearly £T. 70,000. The annual expenditure being estimated at about the latter figure, there remains a surplus, after the repayment of the loan, of about £T. 30,000. According to the agreement come to with the Porte in October 1878, in the event of a surplus being declared, one moiety was to be paid into the Imperial Treasury and the other devoted to local improvements. The Cretans, however, foresee that next year's revenue will probably fall far short of that of the current year, as the olive tree never gives two full crops in succession, last year the tithes from that source being less than £T. 10,000, as compared with the £T. 70,000 just forthcoming. They are therefore minded to carry forward the surplus to cover the deficit of the next financial year, and in an oil-producing country like Crete, whose revenue is derived exclusively from tithes, prudence suggests that the Budget be based on the proceeds of two successive years. This question is also likely to be a source of dispute between the local and Imperial authorities.

While there are thus several questions calculated to strain the relations between the Porte and its Cretan subjects, there looms on the horizon a threatened war between Turkey and a kingdom which the Cretans have been taught to regard as their mother-country. It is impossible to predict the ultimate consequences of such a war on this island, but it is obvious that, if it breaks out, the sympathies of the Christian islanders will be wholly on the side of Greece. If Greece thinks that she will create a diversion in her favour by raising the island in revolt, there is no doubt that a very slight expenditure would bring about this result. But supposing Greece to abstain from such a course, the benefits resulting from which are extremely problematical, the excitement produced by the war might of itself suffice to draw the more ardent spirits into acts of hostility, the immediate consequence of which would be the flight of the Mussulman population into the garrison towns. I have on several occasions expressed my opinion that, notwithstanding all the manifestoes put forth by the Cretans of their desire for union with Greece, they have little enthusiasm for that cause. If annexation were offered them, they would gladly welcome it on certain conditions; but the tendencies of the islanders are really separatist, and I am persuaded that they would not willingly accept the Greek Constitution, and that if it was forced upon them they would quickly agitate for an autonomous Government.

While the system of government which has been in force for the last two years may be pronounced a success, inasmuch as it has rescued the island from anarchy, and is teaching the people to appreciate the advantages of representative institutions and self-government, all affect to regard it as transitory in its nature, some being in favour of union with Greece, and others of the island being erected into a Principality. Happily, there is a general disinclination for revolutionary courses, and, were it not that in a mountainous country like Crete it is in the power of a handful of men to get up disturbances, there would be little fear of another insurrection unless promoted by agents from abroad.

The rumour lately current that there was an intention on the part of the Powers to propose the cession of the island to Greece has made a painful impression on the Mussulman population, which dreads nothing so much as being put under Greek rule. The 3,000 or 4,000 Turkish troops who now occupy the principal fortresses give them a certain sense of security, but should Greek soldiers, or even a local militia, take their place, they would feel themselves as destitute of protection as their brethren in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 132.

Acting Consul-General Summa to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Scutari, le 15 Janvier*, 1881.

J'AI l'honneur de rapporter à votre Seigneurie que l'émigration des Musulmans de Podgoritza, commencé depuis quelques temps, a pris dans ces derniers jours une telle extension qu'on peut affirmer que sous peu il n'y restera qu'un très petit nombre de Musulmans.

Je n'ai pas manqué de m'entretenir avec les plus notables émigrés pour connaître les vrais motifs qui les ont poussés à s'expatrier, et tous m'ont affirmé qu'ils y ont été forcés par les procédés du Gouvernement Monténégrin à leur égard, et outre les autres motifs de mécontentement qu'ils auraient, ils ne sauraient surtout se soumettre, comme les autres Monténégrins, au service militaire obligatoire, et à l'envoi de leurs enfants aux écoles du pays pour y apprendre la langue Slave.

Pour ces motifs, disent-ils, les Musulmans en masse ont décidé d'émigrer à l'exception pourtant de la famille d'un certain Békir Bey, qui est actuellement Sous-Gouverneur de la ville, et de ses parents et ses amis, dont le nombre s'élève à une quinzaine de familles qui resteront à Podgoritza.

Quant aux émigrés de Dulcigno, heureusement leur nombre est très-petit, les habitants n'ayant pas quitté la ville, malgré toutes les promesses leur faites par Dervich Pacha, qui, pour leur faire décider à s'expatrier, avait promis le paiement intégral du montant de tous leurs immeubles; mais les Dulcignotes ont refusé, étant plus que sûrs que le Commandant Turc non seulement n'aurait exécuté des promesses, mais même que le Gouvernement Impérial était hors d'état de bien fournir l'hospitalité qu'il leur offrait, et que précédemment avait offerte aussi à leurs coreligionnaires de Niksitch, Spouz, Podgoritza, &c., qui se trouvent ici en grand nombre, et dont l'état est des plus affreux. Tout leur manque. Bien qu'ils ne soient pas tout à fait négligés, ni par le Gouvernement ni par la charité particulière, toutefois on n'arrive à apporter à leur sort qu'un soulagement médiocre et passager. La maladie et la misère fauchent largement parmi ces malheureux, dont on a encouragée l'émigration par des promesses, qui loin de se réaliser sont remplacées par les plus cruelles déceptions.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) FRA. SUMMA.

No. 133.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, January 26, 1881.*

OSMAN PASHA, late Governor-General of Kossova, arrived here yesterday evening, on his way to Constantinople. I gathered, from a private conversation I have had with him, that he appeared unwilling to attach serious importance to proceedings of Albanian

League; although he thinks that the Chiefs' aim is to obtain a limited autonomy under the Porte.

He stated that the public peace has not been disturbed, and that the League is conciliatory towards the [?].

Further, that Bulgarian brigandage has ceased; that the relations between the Turkish and the Bulgarian and Servian border authorities are on a satisfactory cordial footing, and that the Mahommedans are now better treated by the Bulgarian and Servian officials and people.

I hope to hear to-morrow from my agent at Uesup.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 134.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, January 13, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 372, Confidential, of the 15th December, I am informed by the Governor-General that five Russian officers serving in the militia and gendarmerie have received telegraphic instructions from St. Petersburgh to tender their resignations and proceed to Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 135.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 42.)

Constantinople, January 16, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the following changes in the composition of the Cabinet and public Departments of Turkey.

Tewfik Pasha, General of Division, is named Minister of Finance, in the place of Subhi Pasha.

Subhi Pasha, Minister of the Evkaf or Ecclesiastical Property, in place of Nazif Pasha, dismissed.

Hassan Pasha, Minister of Marine, in place of Rassim Pasha, dismissed.

Ghazi Osman Pasha, Minister of War, in place of Hussein Husni Pasha, dismissed.

Reouf Pasha, Commander of the Imperial Guard, in Place of Kurdi Ismail Pasha, dismissed.

Edhem Pasha, Chief of the Military Staff, in place of Ali Nizamis Pasha, dismissed.

Hobart Pasha, Chief of the Naval Staff.

Suleiman Pasha, President of the Naval Council, in place of Hassan Pasha, named Minister of Marine.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 136.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 45.)

Constantinople, January 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of an article published in the "Bulgarin," a Rustchuk newspaper, on the subject of the treatment of Bulgarian inhabitants in Macedonia.

I have lately drawn the attention of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to this matter, and pointed out the evil effects which this alleged wholesale deportation of Bulgarians to Asia Minor would produce on the public mind of Europe.

Assim Pasha replied, that the political propaganda, political brigandage he called it, which was being carried on by Bulgarians in Macedonia had determined the local authorities to resort to deportation of the offenders. But that the Government had, I

understood his Excellency to say, counter-ordered these intended measures, and decided that the agitators should be "internés" at Salonica till quieter times.

His Excellency added, that all this Bulgarian agitation in Macedonia is fomented at Sophia, and Her Majesty's Government would render a real service by instructing Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria to point out to the Government of that Principality what trouble they were causing, and how easily it might be stopped from thence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

No. 137.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 52.)

Constantinople, January 18, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Consul Calvert on the present state of the question of Mussulman claims against Christians for property seized by the latter during the late war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Consul Calvert to Mr. St. John.

Sir,

Adrianople, January 4, 1881.

THE Porte appears determined to deal in a more high-handed manner than heretofore with the question of the claims of the Mussulman inhabitants of this province against the Christians, whom they accuse of having appropriated live-stock and other property left in their charge when the Mussulmans fled before the Russian army.

As reported in my despatches of the 2nd and 5th December, 1879, the Commissions formed in different parts of the province for the purpose of deciding upon these claims, in the winter of 1879, were distinctly declared to be Commissions of Conciliation, and to be invested with no judicial functions. Their decisions were to be enforced by moral pressure, if possible, but were not to be binding on the contending parties.

Réouf Pasha and Wassa Effendi, the Christian Musteshas of the vilayet, were adverse to the prosecution of these claims in any manner which would involve the summoning and confrontation of claimants and defendants. They believed that such a course, while likely to be productive of but comparatively little benefit to the injured parties, would tend to embitter the feelings towards each other of Christians and Mussulmans, and they strenuously urged that the dispossessed Mussulmans should be indemnified for their losses by Government; not to the full extent of those losses (for that would have been too great a strain on the resources of the provincial Treasury), but partially.

The Porte, however, would not hear of any such scheme.

On the eve of the reappointment of Réouf Pasha to the Governorship of Adrianople, his Excellency conceived, and submitted to the Prime Minister, a plan by which the claimants of plundered property might receive Government compensation without any disbursement out of the existing provincial revenue. He proposed that the property tax for 1879, which was not collected by the Russians, should now be levied on the inhabitants, Christians and Mussulmans alike, of the Adrianople Vilayet, without any special reason being publicly assigned for the measure. He calculated that the tax would produce a sum of about 2,000,000 piastres, and this, he proposed, should be distributed among the 6,000 claimants of plundered property.

Said Pasha, his Excellency informed me, was apparently favourably struck by this scheme, but shortly after the return of Réouf Pasha to Adrianople, his Highness wrote officially to say that it had not met with the approval of the Government.

Latterly the Porte has sent to Adrianople an order couched in very ambiguous terms, but the result of which has been the imprisonment of some twenty Christian peasants. The order is to the effect that the decisions of the Commissions are henceforth to possess a judicial character, but at the same time the authorities are not to resort to force as a means of coercion.

Réouf Pasha has two or three times applied for a more explicit statement of the Porte's meaning, but has not as yet received any reply.

Should imprisonments on account of these Mussulman claims be carried out on any wide scale, it is to be feared that they would give rise to very great agitation; and already there is a talk of protests against what is considered as a violation of the amnesty stipulated in the Berlin Treaty being handed round for signature among the Christian population. These protests would be forwarded to the Representatives of the Great Powers.

It may not be irrelevant to the subject of this despatch to state here that both the Greek and the Bulgarian Christians of this province have continued, since the departure of the Russian army of occupation, to maintain towards the Turks in general an attitude of almost defiant independence.

A remarkable instance of this was related to me the other day by a European gentleman whose business frequently takes him to the different towns of the vilayet.

He stated that lately, while at Baba Eski, he was calling on the Kaïmakam, when a local Christian Tchorbadji, named Nikolaki Moscovoglou, entered the room, and, in an insulting manner, engaged in an altercation with the Governor about some Government timber which he had been accused of appropriating. The Governor's manner, according to my informant, was most conciliatory; but Moscovoglou refused to be pacified, and left the room declaring that if the Governor did not mind what he was about, he (Moscovoglou) would "bring down the villages," meaning that he would provoke a popular demonstration against the Kaïmakam. My informant was indignant at the man's behaviour and threats, and asked the Governor why he did not have him summarily arrested; but the Kaïmakam replied, with a sigh, that "his hands were tied," and that he knew that should the matter be referred to his superiors, Moscovoglou would get the best of it. The latter, it seems, is known to have a Russian passport in reserve, which he intends to exhibit should the Turkish authorities ever attempt to interfere with him. The independence which he is thus enabled to affect gives him great influence over the Christian peasantry.

The present attitude of the Christians is, no doubt, due to the yet vivid recollection of the license enjoyed by them during the Russian occupation; to the proximity of a virtually independent Principality, the Christian officers of which militia frequently show themselves here in a uniform scarcely differing from the Russian; and to the cowed feelings of the Turks, who still stand in awed remembrance of Russian prowess.

The Christians, moreover, are now infinitely better armed than the Mussulmans. The Martini, Winchester, and Krinka rifles, which they obtained possession of during the Russian occupation, to this day remain in their hands, though never displayed. The Mussulman peasants, on the other hand, are either unarmed or possessed of very inferior weapons, having sold, or been deprived of, their best arms at the time of their panic-stricken flight.

All these causes united inspire the Christians with a confidence in themselves, and the Turks with a corresponding humility, which have never before the war been seen in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 138.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 55.) *Constantinople, January 18, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Brophy upon the state of the district of Bourgas, and reporting an improvement in the relations between the Turkish and Bulgarian inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Consul Brophy to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Bourgas, January 6, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that during the last three months a strongly marked change for the better has taken place in the country districts of the department of Bourgas.

Before that date no Turk travelling from one village to another was safe from armed Bulgarians, who might beat, wound, rob, or even murder him with absolute impunity; attacks on Turkish villages were made in the day-time or at night by bands of armed Bulgarian peasants, who extorted money by plunder, plundered the houses, and carried off cattle, whilst the authorities remained passive and took no action.

Complaints were made daily to me by Mussulman peasants, with whom my position as a landowner in the Turkish Balkan had previously made me acquainted, that even when a gendarme came to a Turkish village for the sole purpose of posting an order on the walls of the Mosque, he seldom failed to use his whip without provocation, and never left without insulting the Turkish nation, religion, &c.

As I have only too frequently been obliged to report to Her Majesty's Embassy similar crimes, or crimes of a still darker hue, I have now the greatest pleasure in informing you that the condition of the department, as regards the police of the rural districts, may be considered as fairly satisfactory. Gendarmes now do their duty in Mussulman villages without unnecessary use of blows, or of insulting language. I have no information as to any theft, assault, robbery, or plunder, committed on Turkish travellers by Bulgarians, although, had such cases occurred, I should be almost certain to have heard of them.

During the three months I speak of, I have only knowledge of the three following serious crimes:—

1. A Bulgarian refugee fired three shots from a revolver, without effect, at a Turk in the streets of Karnabad; motive, a dispute about a debt; Bulgarian sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

2. A Turk of Ayvadjik murdered at Sheikhlar by three Bulgarians: motive, robbery; the Bulgarians are in prison here awaiting their trial.

3. A Turk shot by two Bulgarians at Courroudjoukeui: motive, disputed right of cutting wood; murderers in prison here.

Such crimes as these, entering into the ordinary category from which no country is exempt, collective action being absent, and the motives patent, cannot be considered as political, or as endangering the general relations between Christians and Mussulmans, so long as the authorities act with energy in the discovery and punishment of the criminals.

Moreover, the phantom of Turkish brigandage on the Bulgarian frontier—a phantom evoked by the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia in order to justify the existence of martial law in Bulgaria, and the murders of Turks committed there in the name of that law, since, the frontiers of our province being quiet and free from Turkish brigandage, whilst 5 miles distant the Turks were being hung or shot by a sergeant on the simple verbal requisition of a Bulgarian priest (as at Gutchuk Pravedi) or Headman, would have given a logical reproof to the "mother country," as Bulgaria is now called, appears to have been effectually laid, since I am assured by officials that not a single Mussulman brigand exists in the department, all of these disturbers of the public peace having emigrated to the Vilayet of Adrianople.

If the police work of the rural districts be fairly carried on, and the Turks treated on the same footing as the Christians, it appears to me a matter of small moment whether a Mussulman more or less be employed in the Local Administration: during the Turkish "régime" almost all the officials of higher rank were sent from Constantinople, had no intimate connection with the district in which they served, and their class may be said to have entirely disappeared.

The vast majority of the Turks in this district is composed of yeomen who cultivate their own land, and their interests are those which should be chiefly taken into consideration.

The Turkish agricultural peasantry, when not fanaticized by exceptional circumstances or by agitators, is amongst the honestest and most law-abiding populations in Europe: a thirst for office is now the characteristic of every half-educated Bulgarian or Greek who wishes to regenerate his pocket at the expense of his country: the Mussulman peasant, on the contrary, would most probably refuse an appointment for which he would be at least equally qualified with his Christian countryman, on the ground that he knew nothing of his future duties, and wished to attend to his crops.

Turkish scribes, &c., are certainly indispensable under the new régime; this class consists generally of the relatives of the greater landowners, and its members have been so long accustomed to live by illicit means in the exercise of their ill-paid functions that, with rare exceptions, little dependence is to be placed on their honesty, whilst as for their patriotism, they, in common with all the Mussulman officials in Eastern Roumelia, are fully aware that non-compliance with the will of their Bulgarian masters is sure to cost them their places, and consequently abstain from all distinct action, or even expression of opinion.

I have the authorization of the Turkish peasants of the Aïdos-Achialo Balkan, very few of whom emigrated during the war, to say that if they continue to be as fairly treated as during the last three months it is a matter of indifference to them whether their rulers be Turks, Greeks, Bulgars, or Jews: all they demand is protection for their lives, honour, property, and religion.

Whilst I am very glad to be able to give a more favourable account of the condition of the country, it is my duty to inform you, Sir, that the town of Bourgas is hardly, all comparisons made, as well-off as its dependencies.

The gendarmerie, from which the Commandant Martinovich in the rural districts, most of the objectionable elements, [*sic*] is here under the immediate command of a civil Commissary of Police, and is brutal and undisciplined.

The Tribunals of justice are most unsatisfactory: the subordinate members are Bulgarians, more or less literate, whose knowledge of law is of the most elementary character, and whose impartiality is dubious. The President of the Criminal Court of Bourgas, M. Woodinczareff, formerly schoolmaster at Aïdos, was there condemned during the Russian occupation to six months' imprisonment for robbery from a Bulgar.

Whilst I am of opinion that a large influx of Turkish functionaries would conduce but little to the general welfare of the Mussulman population, I think that the Central Government should be more strict and more expeditive in its examination into all well-founded charges against Bulgarian employés: a functionary of any other nationality, foreign or native, is sure to be speedily eliminated on any complaint being made, whilst the Bulgarian is equally certain to be screened and protected by his chiefs.

In the militia Turks should be appointed officers in proportion to the Mussulman soldiery; such a step would give great satisfaction to the Mussulmans, and is in thorough accordance with the provisions of the Organic Statute. Turks speaking Bulgarian, and who have served as officers in the Ottoman army, could easily be found, or an examination in Bulgarian might be required.

Although, as I have said, but few complaints will be made by Mussulmans if the present state of things last, such a continuance is hardly to be hoped for in the event of hostilities commencing between Turkey and Greece: even 'moderate' Bulgarians openly assert that in such a case the long-threatened and long-delayed unionist movement will most certainly be made, and I should then fear a recrudescence of attacks upon unoffending Turkish villages.

Should this movement be commenced, and Turkish troops consequently enter our province from the south, it is more than probable that the Bulgarians would attempt to exterminate the Mussulmans on the frontier of the Principality, in order to prevent any possible co-operation between them and the Ottoman corps d'armée.

If, however, complications from outside do not interrupt the great progress in civilization lately made by Eastern Roumelia, I am convinced that the province will soon be able to attain a condition of well-being which two years ago its greatest friends would hardly have ventured to predict for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 139.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 57.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch and its inclosures from Her Majesty's Acting Consul-General at Philippopoli on the subject of the negotiations for the surrender to the Government of East Roumelia of the disaffected Turkish villages in the district of Dospat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 139.

Mr. Stephen to Mr. St. John.

Sir, *Philippopoli, January* 15, 1881.

IN reply to your despatch of the 25th December last, I beg to state that I have taken steps to obtain more accurate information with regard to the actual position held by Achmed Agha, who, according to information procured by Colonel Wilson during his visit to Macedonia, was acting last summer as Mudir of Dospat.

I have meanwhile the honour to inclose an extract from a Report presented to the Secretary-General by M. Naidenoff, Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik, of the visit recently made by him to the district of Dospat with a view of taking over the four disaffected villages: Seltcha, Diovlen, Naipli, and Karaboulak.

Although documents were drawn up by the "Vekils" of the villages in the presence of M. Naidenoff and the Mutessarif of Serrès, declaring their submission to the Provincial Government, no practical solution of the question was arrived at. It would appear, moreover, from this Report, that the conduct of the Mutessarif of Serrès was unsatisfactory. Notwithstanding repeated appeals made to him by M. Naidenoff to remain at Diovlen a few days longer, so as to facilitate the peaceful surrender of the vilages, he insisted on leaving, stating that he was not authorized to resort to coercive measures, his instructions being to simply communicate to the villagers the order of the Porte to submit to the authority of the Eastern Roumelian Government. On the Mutessarif's departure, finding that there were armed bands of Bashi-Bazouks in the villages, and fearing that his remaining longer might entail unpleasant complications, M. Naidenoff returned to Tatar-Bazardjik.

On referring to the matter at an interview I had a few days ago with the Governor-General, his Excellency strongly condemned the conduct of the Mutessarif, saying that, had he displayed more firmness, the transfer of the villages might have been effected. His Excellency, moreover, referred to the fourteen Turkish villages on the Adrianople frontier, which have likewise not yet been surrendered, stating that the continued unsettled condition of these two districts was a perpetual source of anxiety to the Government, who, after late experiences, were reluctant to employ energetic measures. I told his Excellency that I thought it would be most unwise on the part of the authorities to do anything that might entail occurrences in any way similar to those of Kirdjali.

I was happy to say that I had lately received more satisfactory reports of the condition of the Turkish population of Eastern Roumelia, and I thought that if the disaffected villages continued to learn that their co-religionists were well and impartially treated, they would no longer be unwilling to recognize the authority of the Provincial Government.

Aleko Pasha replied that the villagers themselves were, he believed, well disposed, but that they were subject to the influence of neighbouring Chiefs, who were endeavouring to prevent their peaceful submission. He had again written to the Porte on the subject, complaining of the delay in the surrender of these districts, owing to the unsatisfactory measures adopted by the Turkish authorities, and he added that he would be glad if Her Majesty's Embassy thought fit to support his representations.

I have the honour to annex a list of the villages in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 139.

Extrait du Rapport du Préfet de Tatar-Bazardjik, M. Naidenoff, adressé à M. le Secrétaire-Général &c., concernant la soumission des villages Turcs: Seltcha, Diovlen, Naipli, et Karaboulak, qui, quoique faisant partie du territoire de la Roumélie-Orientale, ne reconnaissent pas le Gouvernement Provincial et se trouvent encore sous l'administration Turque.

CONFORMÉMENT à vos ordres et accompagné des Baillis de Pechtera et de Rouptchos, je me suis rendu le 29 du mois passé aux villages sus-mentionnés afin de les inviter à se soumettre d'une manière pacifique au Gouvernement Provincial d'accord avec le Mutessarif de Serrès, délégué à cet effet par le Gouvernement Impérial.

En premier lieu, j'ai le regret de vous informer que tous nos efforts pour amener leur soumission n'ont abouti à aucun résultat satisfaisant.

Avant notre rencontre avec le dit Mutessarif, qui a eu lieu le 4 Décembre, nous avons dû passer par le village Turc non-soumis Seltcha, occupé par des bandes de Bachi-Bozouks armées qui, ne reconnaissant aucune autorité, ont opposé une telle résistance à notre passage qu'il fallait, pour pouvoir l'effectuer, les persuader que notre unique but en venant ici était de rencontrer à Diovlen le Pacha de Serrès.

Dans notre entrevue le Mutessarif de Serrès m'a rapporté qu'en passant par Naipli et Karaboulak tous les villageois lui avaient déclaré être prêts à se soumettre au Gouvernement Provincial et que dans le cas où le village Diovlen consentirait à être sous les autorités Roumélïotes, il ne voyait la nécessité de visiter tous ces villages. Je lui répondis que mes ordres étaient de visiter un à un tous ces villages et que je ne pouvais faire autrement.

L'autre jour le Mutessarif m'appelle et me dit en présence de quelques Notables de ces villages: "Ces hommes acceptent de se soumettre au Gouvernement Roumélïote." Je leur ai demandé s'ils sont les Vékils des villageois et s'ils pouvaient faire par écrit leur soumission.

Le Mutessarif y a consenti et un pareil acte a été signé par eux et un autre senet dans lequel sont mentionnés les instigateurs qui méritent une punition et parmi lesquels figurent:—

Trigradli Hadji Hassan, Lidjali Beden Hadji Mehmed, et Mouglidi Molla Eyoub.

Pendant ce temps j'ai formé la conviction que la soumission de ces villages n'était que pour la forme et que les perturbateurs ne cessaient de semer des intrigues et des idées révolutionnaires parmi la population. Le Mutessarif n'a pas mis assez de zèle et d'énergie dans sa mission et m'a expressément dit que toutes ses instructions se bornaient à communiquer aux villageois l'ordre de la Porte à se soumettre au Gouvernement Provincial, ce qu'il a déjà fait, mais qu'il n'était pas autorisé à employer d'autres mesures de coercition. Le Mutessarif m'a dit en outre: "Les villages vous sont déjà soumis et il reste à vous de punir les perturbateurs et de maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité à Diovlen, qui était rempli de bandes armées venues, pour la plupart, des villages environnants, encore rebelles, ainsi que de visiter des villages Karaboulak et Naipli.

Malgré mes prières de rester là-bas encore quelques jours le Mutessarif n'a pas voulu le faire parce que des affaires urgentes, a-t-il dit, l'attendaient, et il m'a ainsi laissé seul avec mes hommes au milieu d'une population sauvage et fanatique.

Alors, pour éviter un danger imminent et voyant que je me trouve dans une position très-difficile je me suis décidé de partir le même jour que le Mutessarif pour retourner à Tatar-Bazardjik le $\frac{7}{19}$ courant.

Il est à remarquer que le Mutessarif a amené avec lui, comme des personnes influentes pour faire mieux la soumission, le fameux Baroutounli Ahmed Aga, qui a détruit Batak, et un certain Ali Agha, connu par la population sous le nom d'Ali Pacha.

Inclosure 3 in No. 139.

LISTE de Villages du côté d'Andrinople.

1.	Village de	Grahotsa.	8.	Village de	Balubane.
2.	"	Gniovrène.	9.	"	Tchourónkovo.
3.	"	Mouglo.	10.	"	Oeikovo.
4.	"	Trigrade.	11.	"	Pétvaré.
5.	"	Kiostendjike.	12.	"	Ioscova.
6.	"	Bédène.	13.	"	Breza.
7.	"	Mihalkovo.	14.	"	Neetane.

LISTE de Villages du côté de Nevrocope.

1.	Village de	Dovlene.	3.	Village de	Naipli.
2.	"	Kara-Poulak.	4.	"	Seltcha.

No. 140.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, January* 27, 1881.

MY confidential agent reports from Uscup, under date of the 23rd and 25th instant, that object of Albanian League is to obtain an autonomy under Ali Pasha of Gusinjé, but under suzerainty of Sultan; and that Porte would see with satisfaction a Mahommedan Principality established in the heart of Turkey in Europe under its influence and opposed to Christian Principalities.

He states that Turkish Government secretly encourages this movement, and has recalled Osman Pasha from Cossova for opposing it. He tells me that it will receive pecuniary aid from Constantinople and also from Salonica, where a Secret Committee is said to exist in connection with it. Further, above League is composed only of Mahommedan population of Vilayet of Cossova, and [? not] of the Mirdites or Latin clergy and population, and that no relation exists between League and either Servia, or Montenegro, or Bulgaria, or even Austria; on the contrary, League is the most bitter enemy of the Austrians; some sympathy exists, however, with Italy. Also that the Christian population is agitated and alarmed, and secretly opposed to the League.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 141.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January* 28, 1881.

YOUR Lordship's No. 65 of yesterday.

In consequence of sudden death of his mother, Count Hatzfeldt has applied for and obtained an additional fortnight's leave.

He will not return to Constantinople before the middle of February.

I would venture to suggest that Mr. Goschen should pass through Berlin, and see Prince Bismarck, on his way to Constantinople.

His Excellency would find it useful, I think.

No. 142.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 28.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January* 28, 1881.

THE substance of your telegrams Nos. 51, 57, and 58 was communicated to M. Kállay to-day.

He said Austrian Commission would probably be instructed not to vote against giving thalweg of the Boyana to Montenegro as far as the effluent of Lake Sas. Beyond that the line proposed by Turkey might be accepted, but he did not wish to fetter the Commissioners by precise instructions.

He does not attach much importance to the objections of the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners, and thinks that the whole matter can be settled within the Commission by a vote of majority.

No. 143.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 28, 1881.

MUSURUS PASHA left with me on the 24th instant the despatch from the Porte, of which a copy is herewith inclosed,* relative to the alleged confiscation by the Montenegrin Government of the property of the Mussulmans who have emigrated from the districts ceded by Turkey to Montenegro under the Treaty of Berlin, and stated that he was instructed to ask that representations might be made at Cettinjé against these proceedings.

* No. 140

I told his Excellency that I would make inquiries on the subject, but that the news surprised me, as the Prince of Montenegro had always shown himself most anxious to treat as well as possible the Mussulmans under his rule.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 144.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 3.) *Foreign Office, January 28, 1881.*

Sir,

I INCLOSE, for your information, a copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople on the subject of a representation which the Turkish Ambassador in London has been instructed to make in regard to the alleged confiscation of the property of the Mussulmans who have emigrated from the districts ceded to Montenegro by Turkey.*

I have to request you to report to me any information which you can obtain with regard to the proceedings referred to in the Porte's note of the 13th January.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 145.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 12.) *Scutari, January 26, 1881.*
(Telegraphic.)

AN officer of the Prince has just arrived to inform Commissioners that Montenegro accepts the line proposed by Turks from Lake Scutari as far as the Boyana, but cannot give up claim to shares of waters of that river.

This decision was entirely unknown to the Montenegrin Commissioner last night. He assured me yesterday that Montenegro had determined to adhere strictly to the Dulcigno arrangement of the line.

No. 146.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 13.) *Scutari, January 28, 1881.*
(Telegraphic.)

AT a meeting of the Commission held to-day the line of frontier between Lake Scutari and the Boyana was voted unanimously. I pointed out that it was practicable at once to mark on the spot certain points not in the high mountains, but the Commission decided that actual erection of boundary marks must be deferred until spring.

The [?] remainder is reserved, but as this involves no actual demarcation, I do not think Commission will await decision of Governments on this point.

No. 147.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 1.) *Sophia, January 28, 1881.*
(Telegraphic.)

IN consequence of the refusal of the Varna-Rustchuk Railway Company to accept the decisions of the Bulgarian Government with regard to the payment of interest, Bulgarian Government intend to address a Circular to the Powers, setting forth their position with regard to this question.

In this Circular Bulgarian Government will assure [?] that the shares of the Company have never exceeded a quarter of their nominal value; that the line was constructed by Porte for political and strategical rather than for commercial purposes, and probably ask whether it is just that Bulgaria should bear the whole of the obligations which have been contracted in view of interests in which she has a very small share.

* No. 143.

Bulgarian Government being anxious to arrive at a solution of this question, and being obliged to measure their sacrifices by the financial resources of the country, upon which other obligations are also laid, consider that the offer made to the Company is fully in proportion to the small advantages which Bulgaria obtains from the line.

Thinking it probable that the Company would appeal to Her Majesty's Government, Bulgarian Government have decided to place before the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin the reasons which induced them to make the offer.

No. 148.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 34.) *Foreign Office, January 29, 1881.*

Sir,

YOUR Excellency stated in your despatch No. 807 of the 22nd ultimo, that information had been received by the Austro-Hungarian Government of the abandonment of Leseovai by Dervish Pasha. This information is not confirmed by Captain Sale, to whom it was communicated. He wrote, on the 7th instant, that he learned both from Turkish and Montenegrin sources that Leseovai and Kalimin were still in possession of the Turks, who have no present intention of abandoning them.

I should wish you to make this known to Baron Haymerle, and to ascertain his Excellency's views as to the course to be adopted in face of the contradiction of the report of the evacuation of the district in question, which, according to the amended line proposed by the Turkish Commissioner, would remain on the Turkish side of the frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 149.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 15.) *Vienna, January 30, 1881.*
(Telegraphic.)

THE Austrian Consul at Scutari has telegraphed that the Montenegrin Government has declared that it accepts in principle the frontier as modified by the Turkish proposition, but insists upon the "thalweg" of the Boyana and of the Lake of Sas.

As the Cabinets had already pronounced themselves respecting the "thalweg" of the Boyana, the Austrian Government have directed their Consul to support this view, and consider that the rest of the frontier should be decided by the Commission itself, by the vote of the majority, without new instructions.

They think it desirable that the Commissioners should endeavour themselves to solve any difficulties that may arise, reserving as few questions as possible for the decision of the Cabinets.

No. 150.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 14.) *Scutari, January 30, 1881.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 26th instant, No. 11, and in continuation of my No. 09, the Montenegrins are in full possession of the right bank of the Boyana already, but they demand the right half of the bed of the stream also. The Turks raise no objection to the free navigation of the stream, but object to give the Montenegrins any fuller right in the river, fearing, as I think, that the Austrians may claim the maritime police supervision of any portion of the mouth of the river ceded to Montenegro.

The Montenegrins might concede the point without doing themselves any injury whatever.

No. 151.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord, *Sofia, January 7, 1881.*

SHORTLY before the close of the Bulgarian National Assembly an electoral law was passed, one of the provisions of which was that the Deputies should be able to read and write Bulgarian. The Mussulmans of the Principality would thus be practically disqualified from being members of the Chamber. During the discussion on this Bill, a proposal was made by one of the Mussulman members that the provision in question should not come into force for five years, so as to enable the Mussulmans to learn the Bulgarian language, with which the great majority of them were unacquainted. This proposal, however, was not adopted, and the Bill was submitted to the Prince of Bulgaria, who refused to sanction it unless the objectionable clause were modified, in accordance with Article 86 of the Constitution, which provides that, "Any Bulgarian subject who enjoys civil and political rights, is over 30 years of age, and can read and write, may be chosen Deputy."

I understand that M. Karaveloff used all the arguments in his power to induce His Highness to alter his determination, and even went so far as to threaten to resign, on the ground that it would be impossible to persuade the Chamber to alter the law which had been passed. His Highness, however, remained firm in his determination, and on the night before the closing of the Session the alteration upon which His Highness had insisted was made.

The firmness displayed by the Prince on this occasion, as well as his determined action in insisting on the retirement of M. Zancoff, have done much to increase His Highness' authority, and are taken as an indication of his intention to insist upon the maintenance of his rights as Prince of Bulgaria, and to take an active part in the government of the country.

The action of the Prince in this matter has, I understand, been very favourably viewed at Constantinople, and Nihad Pasha has been instructed to convey to His Highness the thanks of the Porte for the protection which he has thus afforded to his Mussulman subjects.

M. Stoitchoff has informed me that both he and M. Karaveloff were in favour of the change being made in the law, but that they experienced the greatest difficulty in inducing the leading Deputies to alter a law which had passed the Chamber.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 152.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, January 14, 1881.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Elliot's despatch No. 801, Confidential, of the 20th ultimo, on the subject of the Servian Agrarian Law, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 1, Confidential, of the 12th instant, I have to state that the Servian Government have taken measures to redress one of the principal grievances of which the Mussulman proprietors have had to complain. The peasants have been summoned to present at once their claims to the land they occupy before the various Agrarian Commissions, instead of being allowed as heretofore to hold them back up to the end of the prescribed period, in order to avoid, as long as possible, to pay the compensation they may be called upon to make to their Mussulman landlords.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 153.

E *Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)*

(No. 6.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January 17, 1881.*

WITH a view to facilitating any possible future negotiations concerning the Montenegrin frontier north of the Lake of Scutari, I have ascertained the precise direction of the so-called *status quo* line.

This line may be defined as follows:—

Starting from the north shore of the lake at a point about 2,000 metres west of point 19 of my map, it passes west of the forest and village of Markorman; thence it passes east of the villages of Gornje Gostil, leaving them to Montenegro, and through the village of Coseč (which it divides), and so it passes just east of the Church of St. Niccolo, leaving the village of Stamslavač to Montenegro.

From thence it passes direct to the bridge of Bzameckimost (which is left to Turkey), and from that bridge in a straight line to Vojna, and so by the southern frontier of the Kuckã Kraina.

This is the line actually held by the Turks at present.

But the Turkish Commissioner is of opinion that a considerable modification of this line would be accepted by the Porte.

He thinks and is prepared to recommend such a modification of this line as would leave all the villages of Matagos and Coseč to Montenegro, and would pass just west of Vladnja, rejoining the *status quo* line at the bridge of Bzameckimost in such a manner as to define the limits of Albanian territory at this part of the line, in accordance with the vote of the Commission to be given on the spot.

He assures me that the Porte cannot possibly consent to follow the line proposed by the Powers in the memorandum of the 5th August, as that line is deemed by the Albanians to trench on their lands, and as the Turkish authorities were compelled to give the Christian Mountaineers the most positive assurances that in no case would their lands be touched, in order to prevent them joining the Mahommedan Albanians in their resistance to the cession of Dulcigno. How far this may be true I cannot say.

The *status quo* line, modified as above, would no doubt be less advantageous to the Montenegrins than the line which they had agreed to, but as the Montenegrins are at the present moment in actual possession of districts which place them in a position avowedly better as regards territory than they would have been if Clause XXVIII of the Treaty of Berlin had been executed in full, they have reason to complain if the Powers adopted this modification of the *status quo* line.

I would also venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the fact, that in agreeing to the "Dulcigno arrangement" the Montenegrins made it a condition of acceptance that the Turkish fortifications on the frontier north of the lake should be destroyed. (See Inclosure to Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 282 of the 15th June, 1880.)

This condition has not, as far as I know, ever been even proposed to the Turks, and it seems highly improbable that they would now consent.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 154.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January 17, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Matanovič, the Montenegrin Commissioner, yesterday called upon me and informed me that he had received his instructions as regards the Turkish proposed frontier line between the lake and the sea.

He was instructed to adhere to the "Dulcigno Arrangement" line, and was to withdraw from the Commission in case it decided in favour of the Turkish proposal.

These instructions, given as they were, without waiting to hear the opinion of the Powers, do not indicate any very conciliatory spirit on the part of Montenegro, and in spite of the professed eagerness to get this boundary demarcated, the action of the Montenegrin Commissioner has been rather to retard and delay our work than otherwise.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 155.

Captain Sale to Lord Tenterden.—(Received January 31.)

Dear Lord Tenterden, *Scutari, January 18, 1881.*

I INCLOSE a copy of a demi-official note which I addressed to M. Radonich, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs.

F.O. 424
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

I sent this note as Mr. Kirby Green informed me that Lord Granville had authorized my being in direct communication with the Montenegrin Government on frontier matters during his absence.

It appeared to me very desirable to anticipate the only real objection which the Montenegrins could urge against the Turkish proposed line.

In the ordinary course I should have arranged the matter with the Montenegrin Commissioner, but he is a mere sort of clerk who is allowed no discretion whatever, and it would be a waste of time to discuss matters with him. I regret to say that it appears to me, now that the Turks have made a fair and reasonable proposition, the Montenegrins are drawing back and are trying to avoid the settlement unless it be absolutely and exactly as they choose.

I send this in a demi-official form to avoid the appearance of interfering with Mr. Kirby Green's duties.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 155.

Captain Sale to M. Radonich.

Mon cher M. Radonich, *Scutari, le 16 Janvier,* 1881.

JE crois qu'il pourrait être utile de vous informer que je me suis entretenu avec le Commissaire Turc au sujet de la ligne qu'il est chargé d'adopter.

Je lui ai remarqué qu'on pourrait faire objection à ce que la rive droite de la Boyana soit prise comme frontière par le motif que les vaisseaux Dulcignotes portant le pavillon Monténégrin seraient par-là obligés de se réfugier pendant l'hiver dans les eaux Turques.

Le Commissaire Turc m'a fait réponse qu'il était prêt (dans le Protocole) à réserver au Monténégro une partie des eaux de la Boyana près de son embouchure amplement suffisante à servir de havre d'hiver pour les vaisseaux Dulcignotes.

La navigation de la Boyana étant déjà libre selon le Traité, ceci fera disparaître toutes objections réelles à cette partie de la ligne Turque.

Mon impression est que les Turcs ne consentiront à aucune autre modification de leur ligne, et puisque cette ligne me paraît assez juste, j'ai exprimé mon opinion décidée que vous ferez bien à y consentir, si vous désirez voir finir l'affaire.

(Signé) M. T. SALE.

No. 156.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 19, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that more troops have arrived here from Constantinople. On the 12th instant the French merchant-steamer "Euxine" landed one battalion of infantry, 800 strong; and yesterday morning the "Algérie," another French steamer, landed 175 recruits.

I should report that of the 4,091 troops—for the most part recruits—who landed at Salonica between the 1st ultimo and the 18th instant, 1,200 were dispatched to the army in the Vilayet of Kossova. The remainder have been embodied in the battalions of infantry (Nizams) included in the army of the Vilayet of Salonica, chiefly in those occupying the Sandjak of Serres, where the authorities, I hear, are anxious to strengthen the military stations in the vicinity of the Bulgarian border.

I am assured by a competent authority that the army in the Vilayet of Salonica now consists of 21 battalions of infantry, 1 regiment cavalry, 3 batteries horse artillery, and 5 batteries of mountain guns. This force is to be further increased by 4 battalions of the 1st Ban of Redifs recently enrolled in the Sandjak of Aidin (Smyrna).

I have also been told that the Governor-General has strongly urged the Porte to dispatch to Salonica an iron-clad and two gun-boats.

The Turkish naval force actually in this port consists of the "Edirneh" corvette as guard-ship, 1 gun-boat (paddle), and 1 revenue-cutter (screw).

The fortifications in course of construction on Cape Kara are hurried on. The Turkish War Office has appointed a General of the Staff to superintend them, as well as other defensive works which are to be made in the vicinity of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No 157.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 19, 1881.

THERE is very little fresh news from Uscup since the date of my last Report on the proceedings of the Albanian League there.

The armed bands of Albanians—about 600 men in all—who recently entered that town have dispersed, but the League continues to prevent the transport of troops and war material by rail between Mitrovitza and Uscup.

I am assured that the Porte, after telegraphically consulting the Valis of Salonica and Cossova in reference to the recent occurrences at Uscup, has determined to assume a more resolute attitude with a view to re-establish its authority and power in that district.

It has informed the Vali of Salonica that two battalions of infantry will be sent from the Dardanelles to Salonica, and directed him to make arrangements with the Railway Company for their conveyance by special trains to Uscup.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 158.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 19, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 164 of the 24th ultimo relative to the Bulgarians who were deported from Kuiprulu, your Lordship will be glad to hear that the arrangements which I reported in that despatch for the repatriation of these poor people have been carried out by the Pasha of Salonica.

All these Bulgarians (165 in all, including women and children) have been sent back to their homes, with the exception of 19 suspected individuals who are to remain here under the surveillance of the police until the state of siege is removed from the district of Kuiprulu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 159.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 21, 1881.

I CALLED on Munir Bey, the Sultan's Grand Master of Ceremonies, the day before yesterday, and begged him to inform His Majesty that the contracts by which the English gendarmerie officers were engaged had expired a week previously, and remind His Majesty of his gracious promise, so spontaneously made and conveyed to me by Sir A. Sandison, that they should be renewed.

I have just received a note from General Baker Pasha that this has been done, and that he would furnish me with all the details as soon as he was informed of them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

F.O. 424
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 160.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 24. Confidential. Extender.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 21, 1881.*

MR. GREEN, Her Majesty's Representative in Montenegro, being at the present moment absent from his post, the Government of Prince Nicolas have no direct means of communicating with Her Majesty's Government.

M. Radonitz has accordingly requested the Russian Government to transmit to London the following message :—

"The Montenegrin Government would, if the Powers absolutely insist on it, consent to adopt that part of the new frontier-line recently proposed by the Turkish Commissioner between the Lake and the River Boyana ; but they cannot agree to give up their right to the thalweg of that river ; without this the district of Dulcigno would be of little importance to the Principality, and the commercial interests of the country would suffer.

The Montenegrin Government express their earnest hope that their action in this matter may have the support of Her Majesty's Government."

In transmitting this message, M. de Giers informed me that orders had already been sent to the Russian Commissioner to support the Montenegrin decision, and his Excellency expressed a hope that your Lordship would send similar instructions to Captain Sale.

Prince Nicolas said M. de Giers had been so reasonable in his conduct, and so anxious to conform to the wishes of the Great Powers during the entire course of these negotiations, that the Russian Government consider that His Highness deserves the support of Europe in the matter now under discussion.

M. de Giers also informed me that M. Radonitz stated in a second telegram received here yesterday that the Montenegrin Government attributed this new difficulty to the action of the Austrian Commissioner, who seems anxious to put an exaggerated interpretation on Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, which accords to Austria-Hungary the maritime protection of the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 161.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 35. Extender.)

My Lord, *Vienna, January 23, 1881.*

I ASKED Baron Haymerle this afternoon what he thought of the objections raised by Montenegro to the Turkish modification of the boundary-line, making the bank instead of the thalweg of the Boyana the frontier.

He did not appear to attach much importance to the objection, but expressed no opinion upon the merits of the question which the Commissioners would be most competent to deal with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 45. Extender.)

My Lord, *Vienna, January 28, 1881.*

THE substance of your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 51, 57, and 58 was communicated to M. de Kállay to-day.

He said that the Austrian Commissioner had not yet received instructions to deal with the last difference of opinion between Turkey and Montenegro regarding the frontier-line between the sea and the Lake of Scutari.

He thought that too much importance should not be attached to the protestations of the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners as to the absolute character of their latest

instructions, and that the question ought not to be suffered to become again a matter of debate between the Cabinets.

The Austrian Commissioner, he said, would probably be directed not to vote against conceding the thalweg of the Boyana to Montenegro as far as the affluent of Lake Sas. He would not, however, be told positively to vote for it. From that point M. de Kállay thinks the line proposed by Turkey acceptable, but he wishes to leave the Austrian Commissioner as little fettered, by precise instructions upon the whole question, as possible, being incredulous as to strategical arguments on either side and desiring to allow the Commission itself to decide all disputes finally by the vote of its majority.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot.)
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 163.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

Ragusa, January 24, 1881.

My Lord,

THE Blue Book just issued on the new law for the European provinces of Turkey contains a despatch of Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to your Lordship, dated the 22nd July, 1880, where in very courteous terms, with reference to my Report from Prisrend of the 5th June, he hesitates to offer any criticism upon my statements, because, as he says, I possess a local knowledge of that part of European Turkey which he cannot claim.

His Lordship, however, expresses an opinion that the view put forward by me with regard to the Slavonic nationality of the population inhabiting the district generally known as North-eastern Albania, but which I maintain is "Old Servia," is one almost peculiar to myself, and that I have no right to endeavour to make Albanians understand that they are not Albanians ; and further, that every map he had seen of those districts marks them as Albanians, and not Slavonic.

In self-defence I venture to make a few remarks, and to prove, if I am able to do so, that at least some foundation exists in support of my argument, that it is quite possible for geographers to have followed in each other's wake, and, for want of correct information, to be at fault.

By a residence of six months at Prisrend, I not only had an opportunity of making inquiries on the spot, which few strangers can claim, but also the advantage of a personal acquaintance and constant intercourse with M. Yastrebow, Russian Consul at Prisrend, undoubtedly a great authority on the subject.

M. Yastrebow, whose local knowledge is equal to that of any other writer of note—Hahn not excepted—has, during a residence of eight years, devoted his time to writing the history of that country, which he claims as "Old Servia," and not as forming part of Albania, and derives his information from ancient manuscripts, ethnological studies, and archæological researches.

Hahn, as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice asserts, was inclined to think that the aboriginal inhabitants were Albanians. But Hahn, in his "Albanesische Studien," touches lightly on this particular locality ; the inference being that he could not have had much local experience, as otherwise it would have been more fully described ; and he was too conscientious a writer to state what he could not substantiate.

There is no doubt that Albanians from time to time have come down from the mountains and settled in the plains. Some of these intermarried with the natives ; whilst others, retaining their ancestral language and customs, are to be found dispersed in villages which they exclusively inhabit, being looked upon as pure Albanians, and designated as such by their neighbours. But their presence no more affects the nationality of the country than that of Albanian colonists, who, according to Hahn, settled in Dalmatia, Istria, the Kingdom of Naples, and Sicily during the eighteenth century.

For practical purposes it matters little what was their origin. The important question is, what are now their aspirations? With regard to those who still profess the Greek religion, their proclivities naturally lean towards Servia, but they are in a small minority ; whereas the Mussulman population would decidedly be in favour of a large Albanian province. To support this statement, I would refer your Lordship to my despatch No. 21 of the 4th October, 1879, in which I give an account of a meeting at Prisrend of the Albanian League. It was resolved by them to petition the Sultan with the view to the formation of a large autonomous Albanian province, with Monastir as its capital.

F.O. 424
PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

At a subsequent meeting, it was proposed that the four leading members of the Committee should call upon me to submit the result of their deliberations; but the visit was forbidden by the Turkish authorities.

Until the publication of the correspondence respecting the "new law" for the European provinces of Turkey, I was not aware that the question of forming a large Albania had been discussed by the European Commission; and as Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice by his remarks is apparently under the impression that the views entertained and put forward by me respecting the nationality of these districts are calculated to impede the carrying out of the project he advocates, I wish it to be understood that in reporting to Her Majesty's Government on the state of that country I was in no way influenced by political considerations.

My first duty was to report faithfully, and to the best of my ability, the result of my local experience, regardless of any expediencies that might eventually arise. But as the question of forming a large Albanian province has now been mooted, I humbly venture to express my opinion that, though the nationality of the majority of the people is not Albanian, no serious impediments exist to the annexation of that country to Albania. Indeed, such a solution, apart from the political advantages that would accrue in the event of a dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire, would, under European auspices, offer the inhabitants a *modus vivendi* from which they are now debarred.

Without these plains, moreover, the neighbouring mountaineers would never be able to live, and therefore the districts about Prisrend ought unquestionably to form part of the proposed Albanian province, as during the summer months pasture lands are sometimes only to be found near the tops of the mountains, where it would be impossible for the flocks to remain during a severe winter. A line of frontier between the two would therefore be inconvenient, and give rise to endless difficulties.

With regard to the "Projet de Loi," so elaborately worked out by the European Commission, I share the views expressed by Mr. Goschen, that it would be somewhat an experiment to apply the principles of local Government to a population in so wild a state; nor can much reliance be placed in any Mussulman Sub-Governor whose actions were not under the immediate control of a local European Commission.

The revolting atrocities that continue to be committed on the Christian population mark that portion of the Ottoman Empire as the blackest spot on the map of Europe. Some scheme of reform ought to be quickly applied, failing which no alternative would be left but a temporary occupation of those districts by a strong European Power such as Austria.

The good result of the present sound and equitable Administration in the Herzegovina is now becoming apparent. Information has recently reached me, not from the Turkish land-owner, naturally, whose notions of right were hitherto based on might, and, dissatisfied with the aspect of affairs, are realizing their properties and leaving the country, nor from those who at one time aspired to total independence, and expected that all the lands belonging to the Turks would at once be handed over to them, but from the poor Rayah, that his condition under Austrian rule has been greatly ameliorated, as he can now follow his humble calling unmolested, and feels that he possesses an undisputed right to the fruits of his own labour.

Such a change is much to be desired for the districts about Prisrend. The only means of saving them from their present state of anarchy would, in my opinion, be by an occupation. Austria is close at hand, and, being the only civilized Power available for such a purpose, the duties of maintaining order and putting a stop to horrors that are a disgrace to humanity, such as I described in my despatch No. 70 of the 7th June, 1880, would naturally fall to her lot. The germs of civilization which she would be sure to sow in the plains occupied by her would gradually percolate and take root in the adjacent mountain districts, where the inhabitants are entirely dependent on the plains for the sale of their produce.

I must crave your Lordship's indulgence if by alluding to grave political questions I have gone out of my province. The six months' intercourse with the wretched people whose cause I have espoused, and whom I have now left to their sad fate, and the distressing accounts of cruel persecutions and assassinations of which I was a daily recipient, have made the deepest impression on my mind. Though at a distance, their deplorable condition is ever before me, and I should be well satisfied, therefore, if any information I can supply, or remedies I may suggest, might help to alleviate the sufferings of a people whose present condition no pen can adequately describe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 164.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 46. Extender.) *Berlin, January 28, 1881.*

My Lord,

THE reply to your Lordship's telegram of last night I have obtained from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is that Count Hatzfeldt has been granted an additional fortnight's leave in consequence of the sudden death of his mother, which occurred last week, so that his Excellency will scarcely return to his post at Constantinople before the middle of February.

I would venture to suggest that Mr. Goschen should pass through Berlin on his way to Constantinople.

His Excellency would find a conversation with Prince Bismarck on the situation of advantage before returning to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 165.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 51. Confidential.) *Berlin, January 28, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE this day received your Lordship's despatch No. 35, Confidential, of the 20th instant, instructing me to communicate to your Lordship any information I may be able to obtain in any way bearing on the report which has reached Her Majesty's Government that a defensive Treaty has been signed between Turkey and Roumania, with the assent of Austria and with the knowledge of Prince Bismarck, and that a project has been drawn up of an offensive and defensive alliance between Germany, Austria, and Turkey, by which the latter Power engages to provide 300,000 men in case of war. I will do my best to obtain the desired information with as little delay as possible.

Similar reports were afloat after Prince Bismark had concluded his defensive alliance with Austria in September 1879, to which Roumania endeavoured to become a party, but the overtures made by M. Bratiano and by Prince Charles himself met with no encouragement at Berlin.

If Roumania has since signed a Treaty with Turkey and with the assent of Austria to resist Russian influence, Prince Bismarck would probably not object to it; but I am told that he denies having any knowledge of the Treaty, and doubts the authenticity of the report.

To a friend, who asked him about it, he observed that, if true, a defensive alliance between Roumania and Turkey would be an advantage to Russia who, at the next campaign she undertook against Turkey, would be at liberty to march through and occupy Roumania without compunction.

As regards the project of an offensive and defensive Treaty between Germany, Austria, and Turkey for the objects enumerated in your Lordship's above-named despatch, I feel convinced that Prince Bismarck would never consent to become a party to any such alliance, which could offer no advantage whatever to Germany, and would tend to alienate Russia, France, and Italy from, and unite them against Germany, a result which would be in direct opposition to the spirit of his foreign policy. At present there can be no doubt that he is trying to establish friendly relations between Austria and Russia with a view to harmonizing their interests in Turkey, so as to prevent a conflict between them when the Porte collapses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 166.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 14.) *Foreign Office, January 31, 1881, 7 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 15, repeated to you to-day, you should act with your Austrian colleague.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON